

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
**SWOT Analysis**

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	The Dominican Republic has recovered spaces of freedom of expression in the field of journalism in mainstream and alternative media. The July 5, 2020, elections, at which the will to put an end to the incumbent government by means of the ballot box, resulted in the improvement of the climate of freedoms in a wavering democratic society.
<b>WEAKNESSES</b>	Despite the progress the country has made in terms of public policies addressing free access to information, the structural weaknesses of the institutions persist in reason of the power claimed by their sitting officers. Recovering spaces of freedom, both for the press and for the citizens, depends on national and international circumstances. Social activism has not been able to prevail over a presidential system that remains unchecked in multiple government bodies.
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Although the Dominican Republic continues to perform poorly in education, as reflected in assessments from international organizations, the awareness of empowered citizens continues to expand. Self-expression on social media and the resort to these platforms to call for demonstrations in defense of societal issues is a growing reality. Traditional media outlets, in their convergent processes, increasingly take the challenge of delivering news in tune with the transparency demanded by viewers. Online media expand the opportunities for whistleblowing and articulate social dissent.
<b>THREATS</b>	If the country's powers that be, which include the Catholic and Protestant ecclesiastical hierarchies, do not join forces with the political leadership and its structures, the country will continue to depend on circumstantial events to preserve a climate of freedom. The temptation to curb criticism of the authorities' blunders with hefty government advertising budgets continues to exist. A period of progress does not imply lasting stability if comprehensive reforms that guarantee sustainable social peace are not introduced.

