

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
SWOT Analysis

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| <p>STRENGTHS</p> | <p>Democracy in the Dominican Republic has recovered its strength during the last two years under the administration of President Luis Abinader and his Modern Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Moderno, PRM) compared to the disruptions suffered during the last years of the government of the Dominican Liberation Party (Partido de la Liberación Dominicana). Continuous attacks against independent journalists and abuse against those who practice the profession in different companies and media outlets have been reduced to very isolated events for the second consecutive year.</p> |
| <p>WEAKNESSES</p> | <p>The allocation of government advertising, despite not having been the subject of debate in the period surveyed, continues to be an instrument fostering the influence of the political power elite on media conglomerates. The drafting of a media law to upgrade the weaknesses of the current Law 6132 on freedom of expression and the dissemination of ideas is also pending. This legislation has been in force since December 15, 1962. It was passed after the abolition of years of dictatorship under Rafael Leonidas Trujillo; but it has become obsolete amid the transformation and progress of Dominican democracy.</p> |
| <p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> | <p>In the coming months, the country will have great opportunities for freedom of expression. The advisory commission created in June 2022, by executive order, will present said branch of government with a draft bill that will upgrade Law 6132. The commission, with honorary status, brings together media executives and legal experts in the field of communications legislation. The draft proposal must be presented in three months and should give rise to consultations and debates intended to reach a consensus.</p> |
| <p>THREATS</p> | <p>The failed attempts to consolidate an updated piece of legislation on the press that protects the rights of citizens free to express themselves and the exercise of journalism in the 21st century, are proof of the presence of institutional gaps that make it impossible to achieve this objective. Additionally, and as the IAPA has reported, there are still attempts at criminalizing or cornering the press and its ability to work freely. A modern law would cancel new attempts to besiege –or condition– freedom of the press.</p> |

