

## Submission of Information by Third Parties

# The Dominican Republic

### Article 21.- Publication and observations

- 1) On completion of the eighteen-month period from the patent application date or, as the case may be, the applicable priority date, the application shall be open to the public for information purposes. The National Industrial Property Office shall publish in its official journal, at the expense of the interested party, an announcement containing the data and elements established in the regulation. The applicant may request that the publication be made before the completion of the indicated period.
- 2) Any interested person may present substantiated observations regarding the patentability of the invention which is the subject of the application, detailing the relevant factual and legal bases. The filing of observations shall not suspend the processing of the application. The observation may be filed within 60 days of the publication date.
- 3) The National Industrial Property Office shall notify the applicant of the observations and the latter shall present such comments, arguments or documents as may be appropriate within 60 days of receipt of the observations. The observations and the comments of the applicant must be taken into account in the detailed examination of the application.

Observations do not halt the application process: they are included in the relevant file and a copy is sent to the applicant so that the latter may submit his or her defense for subsequent evaluation by the examiner during the substantive phase of the examination.