

## Expedited Examination Programs of IP Offices

### Morocco

The Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMAPI) is implementing practices to facilitate and expedite pending patent applications, especially those filed by SMEs.

With respect to COVID-19 pandemic related applications, OMAPI started implementing expedited examination practices without the need for payment of additional fees. Upon request from the applicant, the application benefits from the accelerated examination, which allows for the preliminary search report to be notified within two months from the filing date, instead of the normal six-month pendency period that applies to regular applications. The Office elaborates a written opinion on patentability, prior to the observations and/or amendments made by the applicant with respect to its application. Once this stage of the examination procedure has transpired, the Office issues the definitive report. Since the initial implementation of the expedited examination procedure, it has been extended and widened to benefit any applicant.