(b) the submission of evidence if there is reasonable doubt as to the authenticity of signatures or other means of self-identification on documents submitted to the competent authority of the Party. Where the competent authority notifies the person that the submission of evidence is required, the notification shall state the reason for requiring the submission.

4. Neither Party shall require that the submission of a power of attorney be completed together with the filing of the application as a condition for according a filing date to the application.

5. Each Party shall endeavor to improve patent attorney or registered intellectual property rights authorized representative system.

6. Where the acquisition of an intellectual property right is subject to the right being granted or registered, each Party shall ensure that, irrespective of whether an application for the granting or registration of an intellectual property right is filed as a national or as an international application in accordance with the applicable international agreement, the procedures for granting or registration of the right, subject to compliance with the substantive conditions for acquisition of the right, provide the granting or registration within a reasonable period of time so as to avoid undue curtailment of the period of protection.

7. Each Party shall provide a system for the registration of trademarks, industrial designs and patents which shall include:

(a) a requirement to provide to the applicant a communication in writing, which may be electronic, of the decision with reasons for a refusal of the application;

(b) an opportunity for the applicant to appeal against administrative refusal;

(c) an opportunity for the applicant to ask for judicial review of the final administrative refusal; and

(d) an opportunity for interested parties, if so provided in its laws and regulations:

(i) to petition to oppose an application or a registration; and

(ii) to seek cancellation or invalidation of the registration.

Article 12.5
Transparency

For the purposes of further promoting transparency in the administration of its intellectual property system, each Party shall take appropriate measures available to the extent possible in accordance with its laws and regulations to:

(a) publish information on, at least:

(i) intention to grant patents, or applications for and grant of patents;

(ii) registrations of utility models;

(iii) intention to grant rights of industrial designs, or registrations of industrial designs; and

(iv) registrations of trademarks and/or applications therefor,

and provide the relevant information contained in the files thereof at least to interested persons upon request; and

(b) make available to the public information on its efforts to ensure effective enforcement of intellectual property rights and other information with respect to its intellectual property system.

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