(d) an opportunity to do at least one of the following in relation to a patent after it has been granted:

(i) oppose the grant;

(ii) seek revocation;

(iii) seek cancellation; or

(iv) seek invalidation; and

(e) a requirement that administrative decisions[36] in opposition, revocation, cancellation, or invalidation proceedings shall be reasoned and in writing. Such decisions may be provided electronically.

Article 11.42: Grace Period for Patents

The Parties recognise the benefits of patent grace periods to disregard certain public disclosures of inventions when determining if an invention is novel in order to support innovation.

Article 11.43: Electronic Patent Application System

Each Party is encouraged to adopt an electronic patent application system so as to facilitate ease of application by patent applicants.

Article 11.44: 18-Month Publication

1. Each Party shall publish any patent application promptly after the expiry of 18 months from its filing date or, if priority is claimed, from its earliest priority date, unless the application has been published earlier, or has been withdrawn, abandoned, or refused[37].

2. If a pending application is not published promptly in accordance with paragraph 1, the Party shall publish that application or the corresponding patent as soon as practicable.

3. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to require a Party to publish any information the disclosure of which it considers to be contrary to its national security or to public order or morality.

4. Each Party shall provide that the applicant may request the early publication of an application prior to the expiry of the period referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 11.45: Information as Prior Art Made Available to the Public on the Internet

The Parties recognise that information made available to the public on the internet may form part of the prior art.

Article 11.46: Expedited Examination

Each Party shall endeavour to provide for domestic procedures for a patent applicant to request to expedite the examination of its patent application in accordance with that Party's laws, regulations, and rules.

Article 11.47: Introduction of International Patent Classification System

Each Party shall endeavour to use a patent classification system that is consistent with the *Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification* done at Strasbourg on 24 March 1971, as amended from time to time.

Article 11.48: Protection of New Varieties of Plants[38]

Each Party shall provide for the protection of new varieties of plants through an effective *sui generis* plant variety protection system.

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[36] For the purposes of this subparagraph, "administrative decisions" may include quasi-judicial decisions.

[37] The Parties understand that, for the purposes of this Article, an application is withdrawn, abandoned, or refused in accordance with the respective Party's laws and regulations.

[38] For greater certainty, with respect to the protection of plant varieties, subparagraph 3(b) of Article 11.36 (Patentable Subject Matter) is subject to this Article.