

To the Members of the Executive Committee of the ICANN Board of Directors,

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker, Board Chair
M. Cherine Chalaby, Board Member
M. Fadi Chehade, President and CEO of ICANN
Dr. Bruce Tonkin, Board Vice Chair

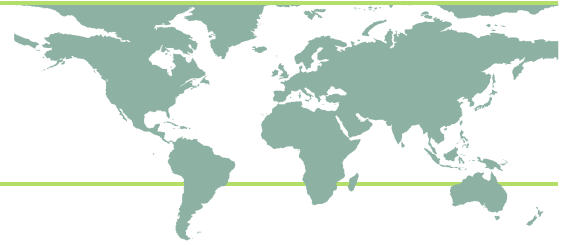
Geneva, 9 July 2013

RE: The ICANN process for the attribution of new gTLDs and Geographical Indications

Dear Sirs,

The Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network (oriGIn) is the global alliance of Geographical Indications (GIs), representing today some 350 groups and over two-million producers. oriGIn advocates for the effective legal protection and enforcement of GIs at the national, regional and international level.

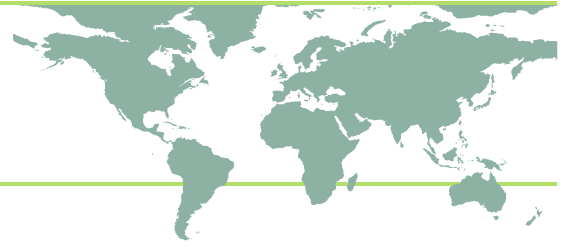
We have been closely following the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) process for the attribution of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs). In this regard, **we welcome the recent decision of the ICANN Board New gTLD Program Committee (NGPC), in its Approved Resolutions of 25 June 2013, to take into account some of the recommendations of the GAC formulated following the Beijing meeting**, in particular the one concerning the string “.africa” and the one concerning the strings “.shenzhen” (IDN in Chinese), “.persiangulf”, “.guandzhou”, “.amazon” (and IDNs in Japanese and Chinese), “.patagonia”, “.date”, “.spa”, “.yun”, “.thai”, “.zulu”, “.wine”, and “.vin”. Moreover, we welcome the NGPC adoption of the GAC recommendations regarding the “Safeguards Applicable to all Strings” as well as the NGPC decision to put on hold the attribution of new gTLDs consisting of generic terms that would grant an unjustified monopoly to private companies. We believe that adequate



mechanisms should be established to ensure that new gTLDs consisting of generic terms are of a truly open nature.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the limits that in our views the final draft of the new gTLD Registry Agreement still contains. The relevant provisions of “Specification 5” concerning geographical names which might be used in second level and/or other registrations (4. Country and Territory Name), in their current form, are by no means sufficient to ensure the respect of the legitimate rights deriving from GIs. We believe that a proper system of dispute resolution based on the legitimate rights of GIs owners and beneficiaries should be established. As GIs is mainly a system of small and medium sized enterprises – in the vast majority of cases small rural producers that play a crucial role in the sustainable development of their communities – it is crucial that such system takes into account the limited financial means of local producers and does not put an unnecessary financial burden to them. **We believe it is crucial that the process for the attribution of new gTLDs be fully compatible with the internationally accepted rules on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and, therefore, consider GIs as prior rights deserving protection in case of irregular use in new gTLDs. In this respect, since 1994 the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement) – which has currently 159 Member States – recognizes GIs as an independent category of intellectual property, along with copyright, trademarks, patents and industrial designs. A vast majority of WTO Member States have issued specific laws on GIs and established transparent lists of the national and foreign GIs protected within their jurisdiction. Denying protection to GIs in the ICANN new gTLDs process would amount to not respecting the internationally recognised rules on IPRs and would weaken the overall new gTLDs system.**

We thank you in advance for the kind attention you will give to this crucial issue for oriGIn and the million of GI producers it represents around the world. Meanwhile, we remain at your disposal for any further information you might require in this respect.



Yours Sincerely,

Ramón González Figueroa,
President of oriGIn,
Director General of the
Consejo Regulador del Tequila (Mexico)

Colehour Bondera,
oriGIn Vice-President for North America,
President of the
Kona Coffee Farmers Association (USA)

Jaime Marimón Pizarro,
oriGIn Vice-President for South America,
President of the Consejo Regulador
de la Denominación de origen Pisco (Peru)

José Enrique Garrigós,
oriGIn Vice-President for Europe,
President of the CRIGP
Jijona y Turrón de Alicante (Spain)

Mohammed Ourais,
oriGIn Vice-President for Africa & Middle East,
President of the Association Marocaine de
l'Indication Géographique de l'Huile d'Argane
(Morocco)

Qiu Yueming,
oriGIn Vice-President for Asia,
Vice-President of the
China National Institute of Standardization (China)

Clovis Terra do Santos,
oriGIn Vice-President for South America,
President of the Associação de Produtores
de Arroz do Litoral Norte Gaucho (Brazil)

Maria Mercedes Sánchez,
oriGIn Vice-President for Central America,
In charge of the appellation of origin
at the Asociación Nacional
de Fabricantes de Alcoholes y Licores (Guatemala)

Riccardo Deserti,
oriGIn Vice-President for Europe,
Director of the Consorzio Parmigiano-Reggiano (Italy)

Dominique Chambon,
oriGIn Vice-President for Europe,
President, Conseil National des
Appellations d'Origine Laitières (France)