



Organisation for an International
Geographical Indications Network

GENEVA DECLARATION

Aware of the risks surrounding the future of Geographical Indications (GIs), producers from around the world have decided to come together and call both for an improved international protection of GIs and for recognition of their essential role in sustainable development.

Geographical Indications allow the protection of product names that are unique because of their origin and a well established tradition of savoir-faire. This protection comes from an intellectual property right that is embodied into numerous international agreements, notably the WTO TRIPs Agreement.

Geographical Indications are anchored in particular territories and they contribute to the social and economical dynamic of many regions across the world; they create local jobs and favour the diversity and originality in production. GIs allow producers to dedicate themselves to the marketing of typical products that meet consumers' demands in terms of origin and quality. They add value to the products. Moreover, GIs contribute to the preservation of environment, natural resources as well as to the protection of a culinary, artisan, cultural and often ancestral heritage.

Therefore, Geographical Indications and their protection are a valuable and necessary tool for all countries around the world, including developing countries that need to market differentiated and clearly identifiable products through their geographical origin.

However, the potential of Geographical Indications cannot be met because of an insufficient protection of this intellectual property right at the global level. Without rapid progress in international negotiations on this point, GIs' contribution to sustainable development and a fair trade is in jeopardy.

For these reasons, producers have decided to unite and create an international network to protect and promote Geographical Indications. This network, called ORIGIN (Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network), will constitute a place allowing for exchanges between producers and favouring the transfers of experience and expertise. It will also provide producers with a channel through which to convey opinions on international negotiations, in a coherent way.

The producers that make up ORIGIN are calling, in particular, for:

- The extension of additional protection of Article 23 of TRIPs for all GI products, as available to wines and spirits.
- The establishment of a legally binding multilateral register for all GI products.
- The reinforcement of technical assistance in favour of developing countries, to allow them to benefit from the advantages of GIs.