

oriGIN Statutes

1. Name

A non-for-profit Association as provided for in Articles 60 and the following of the Swiss Civil Code is established by the signatories of these Statutes (the English version is considered the authentic one). The Association is called: “*oriGIN, organization for an International Geographical Indications network*”.

2. Headquarters

The headquarters of the Association are located in Geneva, Switzerland.

3. Objectives of the Association

The objectives of oriGIN are to promote the recognition of the fundamental role of Geographical Indications (hereafter GIs) in sustainable development and to obtain a better protection for GIs at the international level. GIs are indications which identify a good as originating in a territory, a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.

In order to achieve these objectives, oriGIN shall contribute to the development of an international network of producers for the protection and the promotion of GIs throughout the world. In particular, oriGIN shall:

- encourage exchange of experience and expertise as well as cooperation among GI producers;
- campaign for enhanced technical assistance projects in favor of producers throughout the world aimed at allowing them to benefit from the local GI potential;
- communicate to policy-makers and the public at large the producers’ point of view in favor of better GI protection at the international level;
- keep regular contacts with those international organizations which may facilitate the realization of its objectives;
- promote and defend GIs;
- fight against GI counterfeiting and any kind of usurpation.

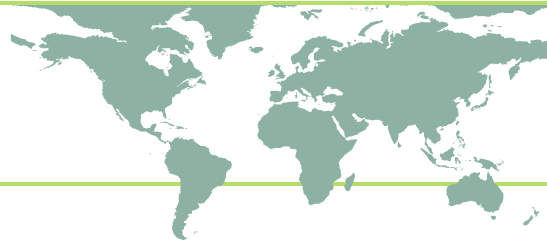
4. Membership

Members of oriGIN are:

- GIs groups;
- associations of groups representing GIs from the same sector or from multiple sectors (hereafter collective members).

Associate members of oriGIN are individuals or organizations which support the objectives of the Association.

Members and associate members cannot be held individually responsible for the obligations of the Association.



Adhesion requests shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat. The membership becomes effective upon payment of the annual contribution.

Any member or associate member may terminate its membership by notification addressed in writing to the Secretariat at least one month before the end of the year. In such cases, the annual contribution is due. Any member or associate member in arrears with the payment of the annual contribution for two consecutive years is considered as having renounced to its membership.

The Executive Committee may exclude any member or associate member which does not respect the Statutes or whose actions may prejudice the interests of the Association or its reputation. The member or associate member at issue can appeal the decision to the General Assembly, by lodging his appeal in writing, at least one month before the General Assembly.

5. Resources

The budget of oriGIn shall be financed from the following sources: the annual contributions of members and associate members, subventions given to the Association to meet its objectives; gifts; bequests; and any other contributions it may receive.

The General Assembly fixes the amount of annual contribution for each category of members and associate members¹ with three crossed criteria:

- member/associate member;
- GIs group/collective member;
- full contribution/basic contribution.

To help expand the activities of the Association internationally, aimed at enhancing cooperation among GIs in the following areas:

- Establishment of groups;
- Setting-up/improvement of control systems;
- Monitoring of foreign markets;
- Exchange of best practices in the field of sustainability;
- Advocacy campaigns on gTLDs and GIs;
- Establishment of national and regional antennas.

GIs groups and associations of groups representing GIs from the same sector or from multiple sectors can, exclusively on voluntary basis, become golden members.

6. Bodies

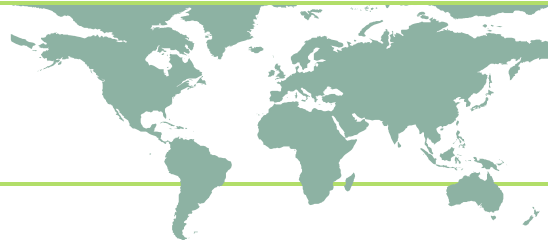
6.1 General Assembly

The General Assembly is open to all members and associate members.

The General Assembly shall:

- approve or reject proposed amendments of the Statutes;

¹ See Internal Regulation, art.1



- approve or reject the annual report of the activities;
- approve or reject the accounts;
- decide the strategy of the Association;
- decide upon the appeals against exclusions of members and associate members;
- decide upon the dissolution of the Association and the attribution of the remaining funds/goods;
- fix the amount of annual contributions;
- elect the President of the Association;
- elect the Vice-Presidents of the Association;
- elect the members of the Executive Committee.

Decisions taken by the General Assembly are considered valid if adopted by a majority of votes arising from the members attending or being represented in the meeting. The voting rights are as follows:

- collective members with full contribution and collective “golden members”: 5 votes;
- collective member with basic contribution: 3 votes;
- members with full contribution and individual “golden members”: 2 votes;
- members with basic contribution: 1 vote;
- associate members: consultative vote.

To exercise the right of vote during the General Assembly, members shall be in order with the payment of their annual contribution.

The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years in ordinary session. It shall be called at least two months before the date of the meeting. An agenda shall be prepared by the Executive Committee. The General Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session at the request of the Executive Committee or of one-fifth of the members of the Association.

Amendments of the Statutes shall be prepared by the Executive Committee. Then they shall be communicated to the members at least 1 month before the General Assembly.

The General Assembly can decide exclusively upon the issues on its agenda. Members can ask for items to be included in the agenda at least one month before the General Assembly.

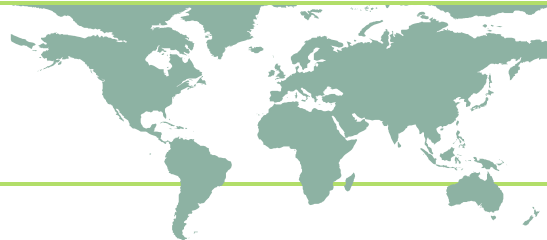
6.2 President and Vice-Presidents

The President represents the Association at the world level.

The Vice-Presidents represent the Association in their respective region. They promote oriGIn and its objectives.

The President and the Vice-Presidents shall represent different regions of the world. The President and the Vice-Presidents are elected for a period of two renewable years.

Upon a call for candidatures – which has to be sent by the Secretariat at least 1 month before the General Assembly – members of the Association wishing to serve as President or Vice-Presidents shall inform the Secretariat.



6.3 Executive Committee

The Association is managed by an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 individuals representing members of the Association, elected by the General Assembly for a period of two renewable years.

Upon a call for candidatures – which has to be sent by the Secretariat at least 1 month before the General Assembly – individuals representing members of the Association wishing to serve in the Executive Committee shall inform the Secretariat.

The Executive Committee shall:

- appoint the Managing Director of the Association and define the terms of reference and salary;
- upon proposal of the Managing Director, select the members of the staff of the Association and define their terms of reference and salary;
- supervise the Managing Director in management of the Association;
- support the Managing Director in implementing the strategy of the Association, as defined by the General Assembly;
- upon the proposal of the Managing Director, review and approve the annual budget;
- support the Managing Director in research of new members and funds;
- support the Managing Director in the preparation of the agenda of the General Assembly;
- support the Managing Director in the preparation of the report of activities to be presented at the General Assembly;
- carry out all tasks that the laws and the Statutes do not assign to any specific body.

The Executive Committee shall meet upon request of the President and/or the Managing Director, who shall organize the meeting. At least 4 members have to be present for a meeting to take place². When the Executive Committee votes to adopt a decision, the Managing Director has exclusively a consultative vote.

6.4. Managing Director

The daily management of the Association is ensured by the Managing Director according to the terms of reference prepared by the Executive Committee.

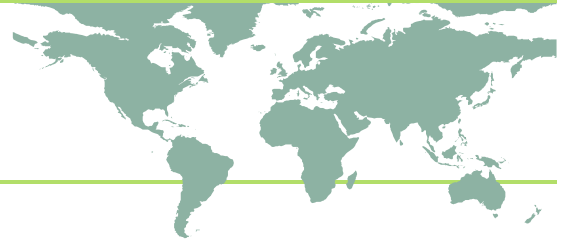
6.5 National and regional antennas

National antennas can be established by GI groups at the national level following the oriGIn standard agreement “Trademark and Partnership License Agreement”³. As provided in the Agreement, such entities have the obligation to join oriGIn as collective members.

Regional antennas, to promote the exchange of information at the regional level, can be established in coordination with the Secretariat. Such entities remain directly linked to the Secretariat.

² See also Internal Regulation, art.2

³ Agreement available at http://www.origin-gi.com/images/stories/PDFs/English/About_us/Agreement_oriGIn.pdf



7. Signature

The individual signature of the President or of the Managing Director shall validly engage the Association up to a maximum value set by the Executive Committee. Above that amount, both signatures are required.

8. Internal Regulation

An Internal Regulation shall set the functioning modes of the Association.

9. Duration of the Association

oriGIn shall be established for an unspecified duration

10. Dissolution

Dissolution of the Association shall be approved by the General Assembly, which shall make its decision by a majority of four-fifths. The balance of the available assets shall be entirely allocated to an institution of public interest pursuing objectives which are compatible to the ones of oriGIn and benefiting from the tax exemption. In no case, the balance will be returned to the founders or members of the Association, nor will it be used in any way, totally or partially, to their profit. The choice of the beneficiary association shall be taken by the General Assembly.

Tbilisi, 23 September 2019