



Hangzhou Declaration

At their second General Assembly meeting held in Hangzhou, China, the members of OriGIn adopted on the 15th of November 2005 the following declaration:

Recognising the emerging role of China as a country with numerous Geographical Indications and the efforts of its authorities and GI Producers towards their registration, protection and development;

Recognising the national interest of China for GIs and the strong link with rural development;

Announcing the application of 30 Chinese GI bodies for their registration as OriGIn members and witnessing the signature of an agreement between OriGIn and the China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) for the representation of OriGIn in China;

Recalling that geographical indications are intellectual property rights allowing the protection of product names that are unique because of their geographical origin and a well established traditional way of production;

Taking note of the essential role that geographical indications can play in sustainable development and their contribution to economical, social and cultural dynamics of many regions across the world, particularly useful for poor and remote regions and their population;

Persuaded by the positive contribution that the protection of geographical indications can play in the preservation of traditional knowledge and the traditional way of production of products with strong origin and past;

Recognising that, with globalization and the setting of a competitive trade system, the added value incorporated in geographical indications creates new and better possibilities for quality products to gain access to new markets, in particular for producers from developing countries, offering them a marketing tool to differentiate and clearly identify their products and precisely meet consumer's demands in terms of origin and quality;

Convinced that a more effective protection of geographical indications is a key element in the context of the market access efforts, supporting their development and enhancing the benefits flowing therefrom;

Aware, of the risk surrounding the future of geographical indications if urgent measures are not taken at the international level to improve their protection;

Taking careful attention to the ongoing negotiations at the international level and in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in particular, aimed at improving the protection of geographical indications to enable producers to benefit from the above mentioned advantages of geographical indications, which depend on an effective protection;

Concluding that members of OriGIn, urgently require that the Member of the WTO decide during the forthcoming 6th Ministerial Conference of WTO that:

- The protection given by Article 23 of the TRIPS Agreement to Geographical Indications (GI) products, which currently applies only to wines and spirits shall be extended to all GI products;
- The establishment of a legally binding register for all WTO Member States for all geographical indications products;
- The reinforcement of technical assistance to developing countries, to allow them to benefit from the advantages of geographical indications.