



# Bergamo Declaration

G7GI Conference – October 11, 2017

As agri-food, wine products and spirit drinks Geographical Indications' representatives,

- We assert that agri-food, wine and spirit drinks Geographical Indications are an invaluable economic and cultural heritage for the production areas and carriers of precious values for mankind, to be conveyed to future generations. We believe that the protection of Geographical Indications is a fundamental tool to safeguard the quality, uniqueness and specificity of agricultural products linked to the territories and to preserve their traditional production methods;
- We reiterate the global economic, social and cultural relevance of Geographical Indication products, a virtuous model in terms of territorial development and sustainability, a brake on rural exodus, maximizing the value of the supply chains, limiting market volatility, the growth of international trade, the correct information of the consumer and the widening of its opportunities for choice, as well as economic implications in key sectors for many geographic areas such as tourism and wine and food;
- We underline that the Geographical Indications are, by nature, sensitive to the preservation of the local resources and territory (key factors that determine the uniqueness of the productions and the impossibility of off-shoring) as well as the traditional acknowledgments of the local communities also thanks to adherence to severe controls system. The Geographical Indications System is an interesting model to be adopted in other socioeconomic contexts in order to tackle global challenges that economic, social and cultural components of the sustainable development require.
- We are concerned about the increasing spread of evocation, imitation and abuse of the Geographical Indications in international commerce context and in the Web particularly, to the detriment of consumers and legitimate producers, and the parallel proliferation of international protection regulations and rules, often not easy to understand and apply. These abuses undermine and endanger the overall economic sustainability of the Geographical Indications sector, their areas of origin and local communities;



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In the basis of these considerations, we call for greater attention of the public authorities of the G7 Member countries and of the international community on the following themes:

1. The creation of a multilateral efficient, simple and transparent Geographical Indications protection system for producers and consumers, also supporting the implementation of the 1958 Lisbon Agreement - revised with the Geneva Act of 2015 - to ensure multilevel protection for Geographical Indications.
2. A substantial improvement in the transparency of Internet governance by involving stakeholders in the efficacious protection of Geographical Indications as an Intellectual Property Right; in particular, in the ICANN's management of the system of assigning Top-level domain and second level domain names; in the correct use of Geographical Indications' names in e-commerce platforms and search engines.
3. In-depth research activities and studies on the positive contribution of Geographical Indications to economic and environmental sustainability and climate change.
4. An increase in financial resources for international co-operation aimed at strengthening Geographical Indications through effective governance models and systems, in underdeveloped countries and conflict areas, with the direct involvement of the producers' organizations of the developed countries.

The representative bodies of Geographical Indications gathered in Bergamo on October 11th, 2017