



Standing Committee Resolution

Geographical Indications and Appellations of Origin

The rationale for the protection of geographical indications (GIs) and appellations of origin (AOs) is to protect signs identifying the geographical origin of goods whose characteristics or reputation are linked to such origin. There is considerable divergence worldwide with regard to the protection of GIs and AOs. Some countries have enacted specific legislation in relation to GIs / AOs supporting broad protection (particularly in relation to their local typical products). Other countries, who do not tend to favour strong protection of GIs / AOs, regulate them (if at all) within the framework of trademark legislation.

The differences and disagreements which have emerged within the international framework focus on several key points surrounding the regulation of GIs and AOs. These include how relevant rights are acquired, the prerequisites for any protection, the scope of any protection, maintaining any protection in the face of supervening circumstances, and relationships with other IP rights.

The Standing Committee on Geographical Indications has, through a questionnaire, collected information from AIPPI's National and Regional Groups on developments in their respective jurisdictions in relation to GIs and AOs. With this as basis, AIPPI can further develop its position on issues relating to GIs and AOs, leading to a resolution aimed at harmonisation of the laws relating to GIs and AOs. This will assist in the advocacy of AIPPI's position on such issues to national and regional governments and in international forums.