

Khartoum Declaration on Gum Arabic Security Stock

The parties attending the *Gum Arabic Industry meeting* held on 07/08 June, 2005, in Khartoum, the Sudan, consisting of representatives from Sudan, Chad, Nigeria, AIPG (Association for the International Promotion of Gums), FAO, World Bank, and NGARA (Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa), under due consideration of the thoughts outlined in AIPG's Bufferstock Memorandum of 08th February 2005, **have reached consensus on the main issues relating to the future development of production and trade in gum arabic:**

- The participants are convinced that there is sufficient potential to increase worldwide consumption of gum arabic. Due to its very specific nature and the variety of applications, particularly in the foodstuff industries, gum arabic can overcome much of the competition from substitute products. Thus, industries in the worldwide consumer markets must be further encouraged to steadily expand their demand for this product.
- The attendees, with a view to the needs of the consuming industries, agree that the further positive development of gum arabic consumption basically depends on permanent availability, reasonable prices, standard qualities, and excellent information exchange among gum suppliers and distributors, enabling end users to be very aware of current and future market conditions.
- The parties involved, with respect to the socio-economic and environmental aspects of local production in the countries of origin, also share the view that growers/ producers should be encouraged to sustain and increase the supply of gum arabic, by assuring them of adequate earnings and a continuous demand for their products.
- It is agreed that each national delegation will further discuss and develop a strategy to address these issues. Each delegation must address the specific needs and possibilities of their specific national conditions. Any progress on this matter should then be presented in a follow-up meeting to be held in approximately 3 months.
- An umbrella organization, with the active support of the AIPG office, will monitor developments of the individual delegations and coordinate unified reports to members and the market. Any public pronouncement will be pre-approved by each of the national delegations and AIPG before being published.

Enclosure: List of participants