
GAC Opening Plenary Session

Session 1

Session Objective

The GAC Opening Plenary Session is the first formal opportunity for GAC participants to gather, introduce themselves, and prepare for the ICANN Public Meeting. During this session the GAC Chair also typically (1) provides a “state of the committee” review; (2) summarizes the GAC meeting agenda for the week; and (3) identifies topic highlights and priority matters that merit GAC Members’ focus and attention.

For ICANN86, the Opening Plenary Session will also be when Mr. Ian Sheldon (Australia) will be elected by acclamation of the GAC to take office as the next GAC Chair at the conclusion of ICANN87 in October 2026, in accordance with GAC Operating Principles 31 and 32.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

1. Elect the next GAC Chair by acclamation.

Proposed Agenda

During this ICANN86 opening plenary session, the GAC Chair will welcome in-person and remote attendees, highlight particular aspects of the agenda for this Policy Forum, and share logistical information to help all attendees participate effectively during the meeting. It is also traditional for a representative of the government of the country hosting the ICANN Public Meeting to offer brief welcoming remarks during the opening plenary session.

The Chair will also highlight a number of substantive and operational matters that the committee is currently addressing and identify a number of work efforts that will attract committee attention in the coming months.

In this hybrid meeting format the committee will also engage in the traditional “tour de table” ceremony during which all GAC delegates will be invited to introduce themselves. First, in-person delegates will identify themselves, followed by remote participants who raise their hands in the collaborative Zoom Room to indicate their desire to speak. Delegates are welcome to share comments on their goals and expectations for the meeting.

Key Reference Documents

- [GAC ICANN86 Meeting Agenda and Related Information](#)

Document Administration

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