
Opening Plenary

Session 1

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Session Agenda

- Welcome remarks from the GAC Chair.
- Welcome remarks from the host government.
- High-level overview of the GAC agenda and priority issues for ICANN87.
- Brief acknowledgement of the AGM and GAC leadership transition.
- Tour de table introductions by GAC Members and Observers.
- Meeting logistics and participation reminders.

Session Objective

The GAC Opening Plenary Session is the first formal opportunity for GAC participants to gather at ICANN87, introduce themselves and prepare for the meeting week.

During the session, the GAC Chair will welcome in-person and remote participants, provide a high-level overview of the GAC agenda, highlight key substantive and operational priorities for the week, and share important meeting logistics.

As is customary, a representative of the host government, Indonesia, will also offer brief welcoming remarks.

Leadership Proposal for GAC Action

n/a

Session Outline

ICANN87 takes place at an important stage of the 2026 New gTLD Program. The application process is now operational and the GAC is finalizing its own operational readiness to engage in the mechanisms available to governments during the application process.

[If Reveal Day has occurred before ICANN87:] With Reveal Day having taken place, GAC Members and Observers will have begun reviewing the application set ahead of and during ICANN87. The GAC's consideration of possible Early Warnings is expected to be one of the first major areas requiring coordinated engagement. At the same time, applicants may be considering whether to exercise available replacement-string options. GAC discussions during the week are therefore expected to include both replacement strings and initial consideration of possible Early Warnings.

[If Reveal Day has not yet occurred:] With Reveal Day expected shortly after ICANN87, the meeting will provide an important opportunity for GAC Members and Observers to complete preparations for reviewing the application set and considering possible Early Warnings. Discussions during the week are also expected to address the replacement-string process and its relevance to subsequent GAC review.

Other substantive and operational priorities expected to feature during the week include:

- DNS Abuse mitigation.
- Registration Data issues.
- Review of Reviews.
- GAC operational matters, including ongoing work related to continuous improvement and internal procedures.
- Engagement with the ICANN Board and other ICANN Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees and stakeholder groups, including the GNSO Council, ccNSO, Contracted Parties House (CPH) and Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG).

Finally, ICANN87 is an Annual General Meeting and marks an important transition for the GAC. It will be the final GAC public meeting chaired by GAC Chair Nicolas Caballero, who has served in the role since March 2023. Ian Sheldon is due to assume the role of GAC Chair at the close of ICANN87. The meeting will also complete the broader GAC leadership transition, including the process to fill the Vice-Chair vacancy resulting from Ian Sheldon's move from Vice-Chair to Chair.

Tour de Table

As part of the traditional opening session, GAC Members and Observers will be invited to introduce themselves. In-person participants will be invited to introduce themselves first, followed by remote participants.

Time permitting, participants may also be invited to briefly identify any particular expectations or priorities for the meeting.

Further Information

GAC Support Staff will provide brief reminders on meeting participation, including the use of Zoom, interpretation and transcription services, access to session materials, and other relevant logistical arrangements for ICANN87.

GAC Members and Observers are also reminded of the GAC Gala, organized by the Indonesian host, which will take place on Tuesday, 20 October 2026. Participants who have not yet registered should contact the GAC Support Team for assistance with the invitation and additional logistical information.

Document Administration

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