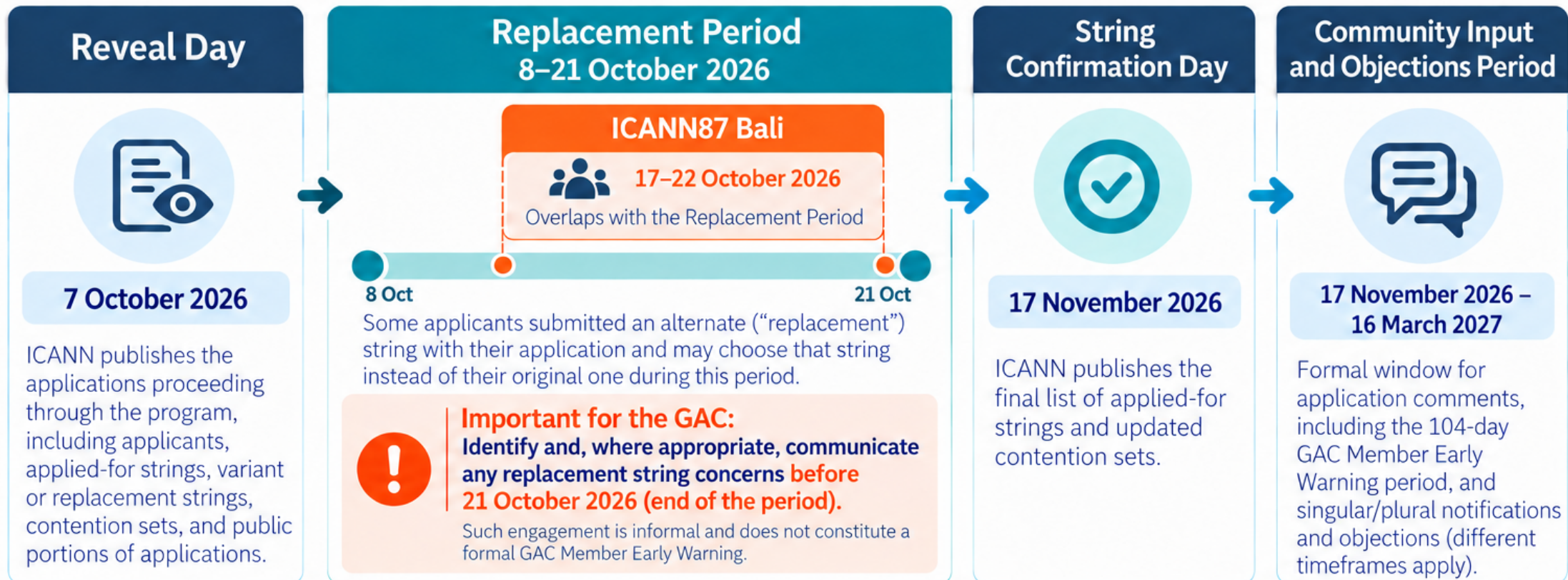


2026 Next Round: Key Milestones for GAC Planning

Based on ICANN's 29 September 2026 announcement | Dates shown in UTC



What this means for the GAC



1

Start reviewing applications from 7 October to identify potential public policy concerns, including any applicable replacement strings.

2

Act quickly during the Replacement Period (8–21 October) to identify and, where appropriate, communicate any replacement string concerns to applicants.

3

Undertake the formal review and Early Warning process from 17 November. The 104-day GAC Member Early Warning period ends on 16 March 2027 (during ICANN88), so GAC internal review, discussion and drafting will need to take place ahead of this deadline.