gTLD

GAC Workbook: New gTLD Application Community Input Actions and Timeline

Supporting information for GAC, GAC Member, and Observer actions in the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round

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ICANN

Table of Contents

Readiness Content Disclaimer:

The authoritative source for all information about New gTLD Program: 2026
Round rules, evaluations, restrictions, processes, and systems is the English
version of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook. All
New gTLD Program: 2026 Round readiness and training content is
supplementary to the Applicant Guidebook, and has been developed to
provide a high-level summary of key topic areas of interest to prospective
applicants and the broader ICANN community. In case of discrepancy, the
Applicant Guidebook prevails.

Introduction

Recognizing the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and its Members and Observers have a unique role and opportunities in relation to new gTLD applications for the 2026 Round (and subsequent rounds) coupled with ICANN's role to support community and applicant readiness, this workbook is designed to provide foundational understanding of Community Input timelines and actions relevant to the GAC and its Members and Observers.

The workbook covers:

1. The entity, financial, operational, and application information that will be publicly available.

2. The different types of gTLD applications.

3. An overview of the actions GAC Members and Observers individually or collectively can take on new gTLD applications.

4. Access to resources available to support the GAC's role in Community Input, Objections, and Appeals.
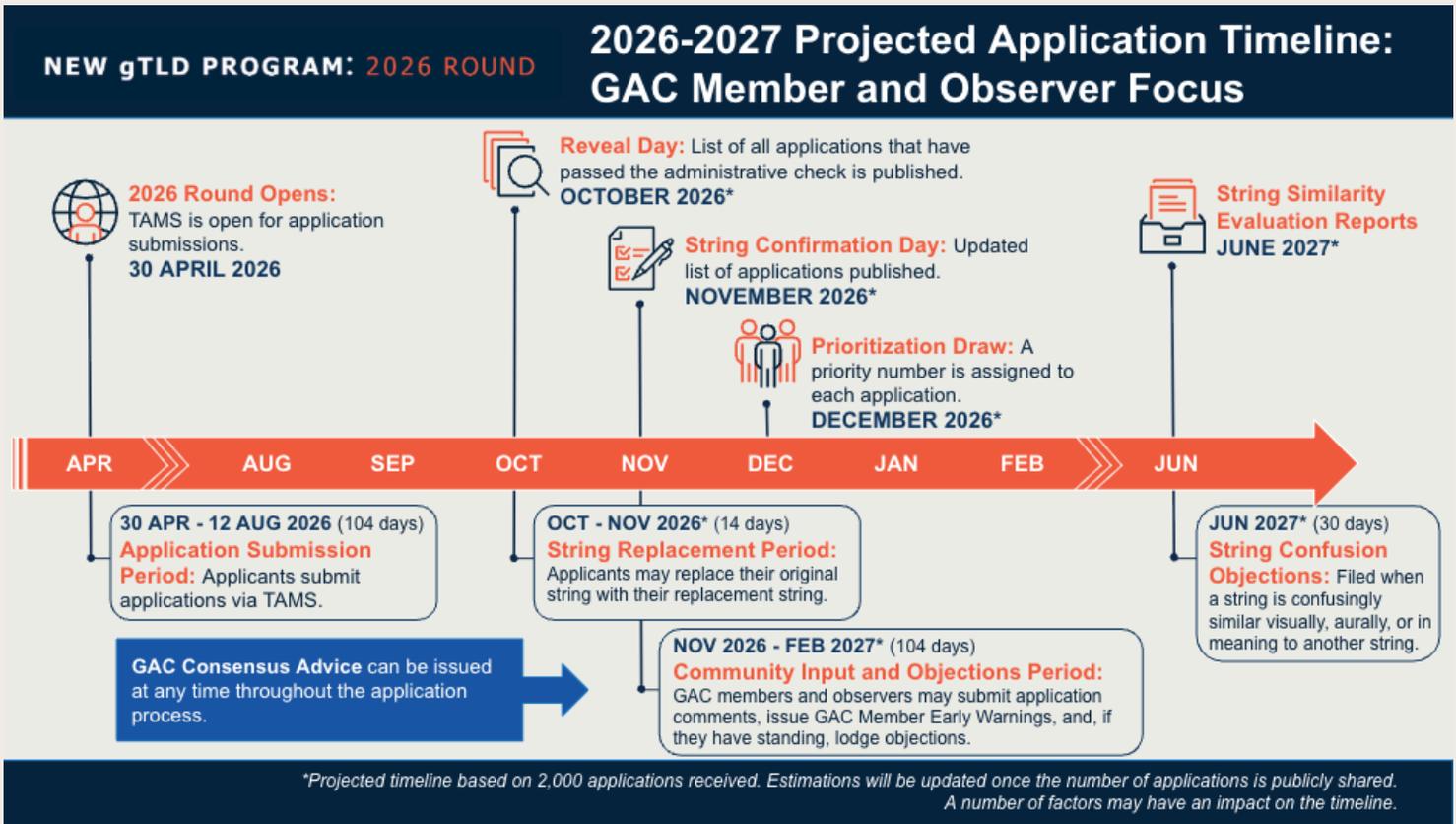
Objective

The objective is for ICANN to provide a structured approach and contextual information which create a baseline for the GAC to develop relevant processes and procedures on GAC Member or Observer actions on new gTLD applications.

Application Timeline

After String Confirmation Day, the community will have the opportunity to provide input in several ways during the time frames and according to the guidelines described in the following pages.

The projected application timeline through June 2027 with a GAC Member and Observer focus is visualized here. Note the projected timeline is based on 2,000 applications received. Estimations will be updated and communicated once the number of applications is publicly shared. A number of factors may have an impact on the timeline.

2026-2027 Projected Application Timeline: GAC Member and Observer Focus

Planning Exercises

1. Understanding the entity, financial, operational, and application information that will be publicly available and when.

Below is a high-level, non-comprehensive description of the information that will be published on Reveal Day. For a full list of application questions and publicly available information see **Appendix 1** in the 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook. Please note that some sensitive data such as users and payment information will be confidential.

INPUT	WHAT THE PUBLIC CAN SEE
Applying Entity information	- Applying Entity legal business name, doing business as name, legal entity form, jurisdiction - Whether the Applying Entity is an existing registry operator, ICANN accredited registrar, or an Affiliate of either - Stock symbol (if applicable), business phone, email address, physical address - Direct Parent Company and Ultimate Parent Company business information - Names of directors, officers, partners, material shareholders, individuals with executive responsibility, and any person or entity with ultimate control associated with the Applying Entity - Additional information or supporting materials provided by the applying entity
Financial and Operational Information	Financial evaluation has four profiles. Each profile has evaluation criteria specifically selected to determine if an applicant has, and is expected to have, the financial resources to fund the registry's start-up and long-term operation. Public information includes: - Standard Profile and Top 25 Profile: self-certification - Government Profile: self certification and operational planning - Registry Operator Profile: self certification and operational planning Operational information published includes: - Self certification of Security and Policy planning - Self-certification of DNS Abuse measures
Application Information	- Applied for string name, scripts (if an IDN), variants (if applicable), string type - Community gTLDs: community served, mission and purpose, connection to the community, community organization and location, community engagement, community awareness, established presence, longevity, nexus, Community Registration Policies, and endorsement. - Geographic Name gTLDs: name, purpose, and intended use - Reserved Names: identification as a reserved name, justification and supporting materials .Brand TLD: status, criteria, trademark certificate, Code of Conduct exemptions - Safeguard Public Interest Commitments (PICs) and Registry Voluntary Commitments

2. Understanding the different application types and purposes of each to help inform the GAC's internal processes.	
APPLICATION TYPE	**DESCRIPTION** (what it is)
General	● One that does not fall into one of the specialized application categories and is subject to a standard set of defined requirements. ● Applications for specialized gTLDs have specific requirements based on the application, string, or applicant type.
Geographic Names	● For gTLDs that represent specific geographic places such as cities, regions, or countries. ● These applications must meet specific criteria and require additional documentation including government support or endorsement to proceed through the evaluation process.
Reserved Names	● For strings - or names - that have been set aside on ICANN's Reserved Name list (e.g., names of intergovernmental organizations, and names related to ICANN or IANA). ● Only eligible entities may apply for these strings by meeting specific qualifications.
.Brand TLDs	● Intended for trademark holders that wish to apply for domains that match registered marks. ● These top-level domains are typically designed for exclusive use by the brand owner and their trademark licensees and are subject to Brand Eligibility Evaluation for trademark-based applications.
Community gTLDs	● For gTLDs intended to serve clearly delineated communities that share identities, interests, or have other common denominators. ● These applications must follow criteria for the Registry Commitments Evaluation (RCE) and have the option to participate in the Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) process to resolve contention with other applications.
Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Variant Strings	● Help support linguistic and script diversity on the global Internet. ● IDN gTLDs include one or more non-ASCII characters. ● Variant strings may be considered the "same" as another gTLD string based on specific script rules. ● An applicant can apply for a new primary IDN along with one or more of its allocatable variant strings. ● An applicant can apply for variant strings of an existing gTLD only if it is the same legal entity as the registry operator for the existing gTLD.

3.	Understanding the actions GAC Members and Observers individually or collectively can take on new gTLD applications.		
ACTION	**DESCRIPTION**	**TIMEFRAME** (when it can be issued)	**OUTCOME**
Application Comments Submitted by anyone, including GAC Members and Observers	Bring issues to the attention of ICANN, applicants and evaluators. Concerned parties can use the Application Comment Forum to communicate concerns to applicants or can communicate directly to applicants using the contact information posted in the application.	Comments may be submitted at any time following String Confirmation Day but will considered by evaluators in the following time periods: • For 104 days following String Confirmation Day • For 30 days following a .Brand String Change Request or certain Application Change Requests	No direct impact on applications but may be considered by evaluators
GAC Member Early Warnings Filed by individual GAC Members and Observers	Early indication that an application is potentially problematic. • Must include a written explanation describing why the Early Warning was submitted and how the applicant may address the GAC member's concerns. • GAC members should provide contact details for communication with the applicant.	• For 104 days following String Confirmation Day	No direct impact on application but signal that it could become subject of GAC Consensus Advice
GAC Consensus Advice Provided by consensus of the GAC to the ICANN Board	Provides advice to ICANN Board, including related to applications which are seen as sensitive or may violate national law. • Must clearly state that it is GAC Consensus Advice, include a clearly articulated rationale, be limited to	• Encouraged during the 104 days following String Confirmation Day, allowing the Board to consider it during the evaluation process • Ongoing throughout the application process	The ICANN Board will consider the GAC Consensus Advice on applications in accordance with the Bylaws.

	the scope set out in the applicable Bylaws provisions, and elaborate on any "interaction between ICANN's policies and various laws and international agreements or where they may affect public policy issues."		
Singular/Plural Notifications Submitted by anyone, including GAC Members and Observers	Identify if an applied-for string is the singular or plural form of another applied-for string, a delegated TLD, a string being processed from a previous new gTLD round, or a Blocked Name	• For 30 days immediately following String Confirmation Day	Triggers Singular/Plural Evaluation, may prevent application from proceeding or place it in a contention set
Objections Filed by parties with standing; GAC Members and Observers may have standing	Object to application on grounds of: 1. String Confusion; 2. Legal Rights; 3. Limited Public Interest 4. Community	Objections may be submitted: • For 104 days, for all objection grounds, following the announcement on String Confirmation Day. • For 30 days, for String Confusion only, following the publication of updated contention sets after String Evaluation is completed. • For 30 days, for all objection grounds, in case of .Brand String Change, starting the day the String Evaluation Reports are published, and only if the string evaluation is successful.	Independent Dispute Resolution Panel determines whether the application can proceed, can only proceed with modifications, or cannot proceed at all; the Panel Determination can be appealed

4.	Resources available to support the GAC's role in Community Input, Objections, and Appeals

TOPIC	RESOURCES
New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook	• The authoritative version of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook, in PDF • The web version, in HTML.
Application Information and Application Types	• **Appendix 1:** Application Questions in TAMS • **Key Topic Overview:** TLD Application Types • Application Types FAQs
Community Input, Objections and Appeals	• **Key Topic Overview:** GAC Member Early Warnings and GAC Consensus Advice • **Key Topic Overview:** Community Input, Objections, and Appeals • **Key Topic Overview:** Objections and Appeals • **ICANN84 GAC Session:** Community Input, Objections, and Appeals recording
2026 Round General Information and Learning Resources	• New gTLD Program: 2026 Round website • 2026 Round Webinars and Presentations • 2026 Round Resources page
Use Cases	• Use cases tell the story of a TLD, including its considerations and business impact. They are intended for use as educational resources.
New gTLD SubPro Final Report	• New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) Policy Development Process Final Report

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