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POLICY
FORUM

GAC Discussion on New gTLDs

Session 7

Agenda

1. **Introduction** - Marco Hogewoning
2. **New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Update** (Marika Konings, Kristy Buckley, Elisa Busetto)
3. **GAC Takeaways from Capacity Development Sessions** - Marco Hogewoning, Tracy Hackshaw
4. **Government Preparations for Next Round of New gTLDs** - Marco Hogewoning
5. **AOB**

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Status Update

Marika Konings
Kristy Buckley
Elisa Busetto

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction (GAC Chair)
2. Updates
 - a. 2026 Round (Marika Konings)
 - b. Applicant Support Program (Kristy Buckley)
3. Objections & Appeals (Elisa Busetto)
4. Readiness Resources (Kristy Buckley)
5. Q&A/Next Steps (All)
6. Preparing for GAC Engagement in the 2026 Round: Emerging Considerations and Practical Approaches (GAC Topic Lead)

02 Updates

2026 Round

**NEW gTLD
PROGRAM:
2026 ROUND**

**NOW
OPEN**

**gTLD and RSP application submission period open
30 April - 12 August 2026**

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



2026 Round Opens:
TAMS is open for application submissions.
30 APRIL 2026



Reveal Day: List of all applications that have passed the administrative check is published.
OCTOBER 2026*



String Confirmation Day: Updated list of applications published.
NOVEMBER 2026*



Prioritization Draw: A priority number is assigned to each application.
DECEMBER 2026*



String Evaluation Reports
JUNE 2027*

APR AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB JUN

30 APR - 12 AUG 2026 (104 days)
Application Submission Period: Applicants submit applications via TAMS.

OCT - NOV 2026* (14 days)
String Replacement Period: Applicants may replace their original string with their replacement string.

JUN 2027* (30 days)
String Confusion Objections: Filed when a string is confusingly similar visually, aurally, or in meaning to another string.

GAC Consensus Advice can be issued at any time throughout the application process.

NOV 2026 - FEB 2027* (104 days)
Community Input and Objections Period: Individual GAC members and observers may submit application comments, issue GAC Member Early Warnings, and, if they have standing, lodge objections.

**Projected timeline based on 2,000 applications received. Estimations will be updated once the number of applications is publicly shared. A number of factors may have an impact on the timeline.*

Cross-Community Dialogue on the Feasibility of a Platform for ASP-Supported New gTLDs

ICANN86 Community Session | [Thursday, 11 June | 16:30–18:00 Local Time](#)

Purpose: Facilitated cross-community dialogue to explore the feasibility of a potential platform through which Applicant Support Program (ASP) supported new gTLDs could eventually operate their own back-end registry services.

Background: Session builds on GAC Advice from [ICANN79](#) and [ICANN80](#) and subsequent exchanges with the ICANN Board regarding the concept of leveraging, contracting, and potentially financing a platform for ASP-supported new gTLDs. The discussion is exploratory in nature and not intended to provide operational support or direct applicants toward becoming Registry Service Providers (RSPs).

Key Topics: Feasibility of a shared/platform approach for future RSP capability, technical/structural/financial barriers, governance considerations, interaction with existing RSPs and the RSP framework, ICANN's possible role and remit, potential policy implications and next steps.

Participants: Moderator: Becky Burr. Speakers and panelists from the GAC, GNSO, ALAC, ICANN org, and RSP community.

Applicant Support Program

ASP Statistics (as of 26 May 2026)

	Indigenous/Tribal People's Organization		Micro From a Less-Developed Economy		Nonprofit, Charity, or Equivalent		Social Impact or Public Benefit Micro		Grand Total
	In Process	Qualified	In Process	Qualified	In Process	Qualified	In Process	Qualified	
Africa	0	0	2	6	1	1	0	0	10
Asia / Australia / Pacific	0	0	1	13	14	7	1	0	36
Europe	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	6
Latin America / Caribbean	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
North America	2	0	0	1	3	8	1	6	21

Note:

- Totals do not include withdrawn or ineligible applications.
- Totals for “Qualified” include both conditionally qualified applicants and fully qualified applicants, though conditionally qualified applicants will not become fully qualified until payment of the deposit.

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Objections & Appeals

Objections and Appeals

- Parties with standing may file objections against applications to have them considered by a panel of experts on grounds of:
 - String Confusion
 - Legal Rights
 - Limited Public Interest
 - Community
- The main objection filing window takes place for 104 days following String Confirmation Day
- Panel Determinations can be appealed
- Objections and appeals have costs associated

Funding to File Objections and Appeals

- National governments may request funding from ICANN to fund **one objection and one appeal**, subject to certain conditions
- To submit a request, the national government must complete a form and send it to ICANN at a dedicated email address within specified deadlines
- ICANN will perform necessary due diligence and inform the national government of the result
- ICANN's funding is only to cover the DRSP filing fees and costs (**not** legal fees or similar)
- ICANN will make payments directly to the DRSP and will not refund any payments made by national governments to the DRSPs or other parties

Detailed instructions and downloadable forms can be found at
<https://newgtldprogram.icann.org/en/application-rounds/round2/applicant-journey/community-input/objections-appeals/national-governments>

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Readiness Resources

Resource Materials

TOPIC	RESOURCES
New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The authoritative version of the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Applicant Guidebook, in PDFThe web version, in HTML.
Application Information, Application Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Appendix 1: Application Questions in TAMSKey Topic Overview: TLD Application TypesApplication Types FAQs
Community Input, Objections and Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GAC Workbook: Community Input Timelines and ActionsKey Topic Overview: GAC Member Early Warnings and GAC Consensus AdviceKey Topic Overview: Community Input, Objections, and AppealsKey Topic Overview: Objections and AppealsICANN84 GAC Session: Community Input, Objections, and Appeals recording
2026 Round General Information and Learning Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">New gTLD Program: 2026 Round website2026 Round Webinars and Presentations2026 Round Resources page
Use Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">New gTLD Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) Policy Development Process Final Report

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Q&A

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

gTLD

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GAC Takeaways from Capacity Development Sessions

Tracy Hackshaw (UPU)
Marco Hogewoning (Netherlands)

GAC Takeaways from CDS

Capacity Development Sessions – Key Messages

- The GAC has several opportunities to engage during the Next Round, including Early Warnings, GAC Advice, objections, and public comments.
- Effective participation will depend on timely national preparation and coordination within the GAC.
- Members identified value in further practical exchanges and capacity development as the application process advances.

Question for Members:

What lessons or preparedness considerations emerging from the Capacity Development Sessions should inform the GAC's work on the New gTLD Program: 2026 Round?

Government Preparations for New gTLD Program: 2026 Round

Marco Hogewoning - Netherlands

Government Preparations for 2026 Round

Questions for Discussion

- What preparations are governments undertaking ahead of application publication?
- What challenges do governments foresee in reviewing applications and engaging with GAC processes?
- What lessons from the 2012 round remain relevant today?
- What good practices can members share with colleagues?

Discussion: How are governments preparing nationally for the 2026 Round, and what challenges or good practices can members share?

Any Other Business

AOB

