



87

ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING



GAC Discussion on New gTLDs

Session 4

Agenda

1. **Introduction** - Marco Hogewoning
2. **New gTLD Program: 2026 Round Update** (Marika Konings, Jared Erwin, Eduardo Alvarez)
3. **GAC Operational Readiness** - Marco Hogewoning, Benedetta Rossi (ICANN org)
4. **Q&A**
5. **AOB**

GAC New gTLD Topic Leads

- Marco Hogewoning - Netherlands
- Tracy Hackshaw - UPU
- Rida Tahir - Canada
- Ken-Ying Tseng - Chinese Taipei
- Thiago Dal Toe - Colombia

Presenters

Marika Konings

VP, New gTLD Program Lead

Jared Erwin

Sr. Director, New gTLD Program, GAP Co-Lead

Eduardo Alvarez

Director, Technical Services

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Welcome

Agenda

1. Welcome
 2. 2026 Round Timeline Overview
 3. 2026 Round Application Highlights
 4. What's Next in the Evaluation Process
 5. Application Publication and Statistics
 6. GAC Operational Readiness
- 

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.



2026 Round Sessions at ICANN87

New gTLD Program sessions at ICANN87 provide a detailed view of the **upcoming stages of the Applicant Journey** and related systems and processes. All times are in local time.

ICANN87 SESSIONS

TOPICS:

AUDIENCE:

SUN 18 OCT
16:30-17:30

**Pre-Evaluation
Stage Overview**

Applicants and Community
Members

MON 19 OCT
13:15-14:30

**2026 Round Timeline Overview
and What's Next**

Applicants and Community
Members

TUE 20 OCT
09:00 - 10:00

**Application Community Input
Stage Overview**

Applicants and Community
Members

ICANN87 SESSIONS

TOPICS:

AUDIENCE:

WED 21 OCT
16:30-17:30

**String Evaluation
Stage Overview**

Applicants and Community
Members

THU 22 OCT
09:00-10:00

**2026 Round Wrap Up and Open
Question/Answer**

Applicants and Community
Members

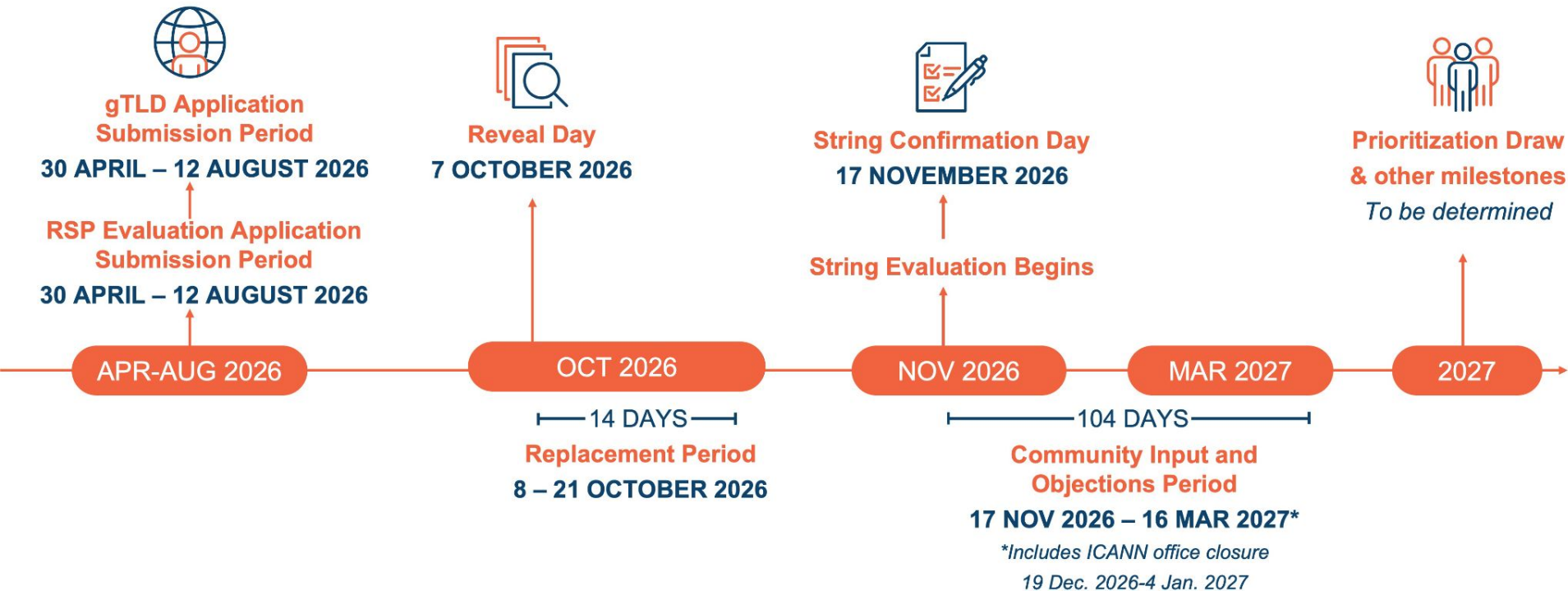
New gTLD Program Booth

**Information and Demonstrations
on Systems and Processes**

Applicants and Community
Members

02

2026 Round Timeline Overview



03

2026 Round Application Highlights

New gTLD Program:2026 Round Goals

The 2026 Round aims to broaden opportunity in the Domain Name System (DNS).

01

Foster diversity

Broader participation across regions, languages and applicant profiles.

02

Encourage competition

Opportunities for registry participation and additional choices for registrants.

03

Enhance the utility of the DNS

Opportunities for new services, business models and forms of online identity.

No overall numerical success threshold was set by the community.

i Please note that all Reveal Day statistics will remain subject to change until String Confirmation Day on 17 November 2026.

 **1,615**
applications

Replacement strings
 **1,169** submitted | **442** eligible

 **481**
applicant
organizations

 **263**
contention sets
(891 applications)

 **333**
brand
applications

North America
864 Applications /
198 Applicants

**Latin America and
the Caribbean**
11 Applications /
9 Applicants

Europe
506 Applications /
111 Applicants

**Asia/Australia
Pacific**
218 Applications /
156 Applicants

Africa
16 Applications /
7 Applicants

 **51**
applications
submitted by
Applicant Support
Program applicants

 **21**
Internationalized
Domain Name
applications

 **15**
self-identified
geographic name
applications

 **16** community-based
applications

 **9** applications for variants
This is when an applicant applies for a string that has other forms
in different scripts such as Arabic or Chinese.

Contention and its resolution

Replacement choices may change the contention picture before String Confirmation Day.

263

Contention sets
(following Reveal Day)

891

Applications in
contention

CONTENTION RESOLUTION MECHANISMS

- Replacement Strings
- Brand String Change
- Community Priority Evaluation
- ICANN New gTLD Auction

REPLACEMENT STRINGS

Note that not all contention sets can be resolved with a replacement string. An applicant's election to use a replacement string does not guarantee that the applicant will not find their applied-for string in contention at a later stage of the program.

PRIVATE RESOLUTION OF CONTENTION IS PROHIBITED UNDER AGB SECTION 5.2.3

North America

864 Applications /
198 Applicants

Europe

506 Applications /
111 Applicants

Latin America and the Caribbean

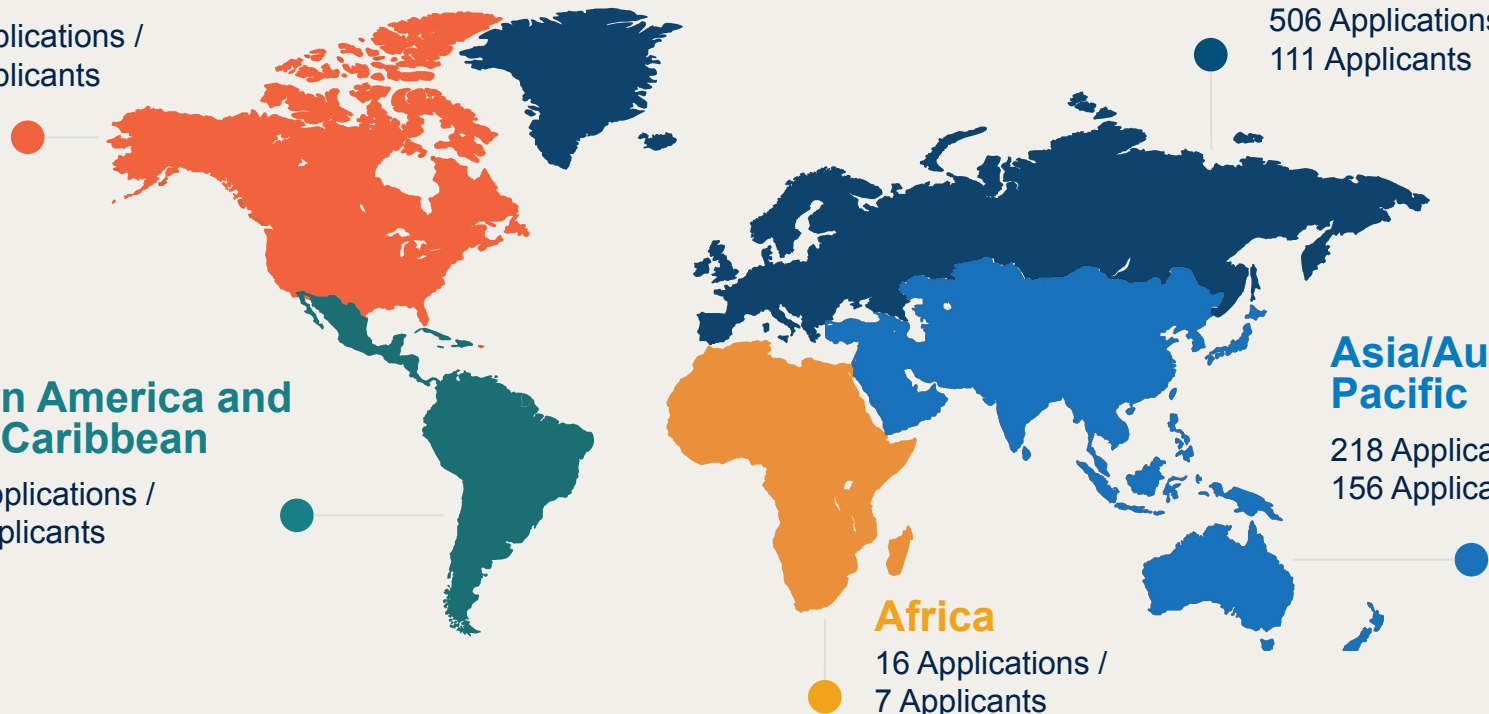
11 Applications /
9 Applicants

Asia/Australia Pacific

218 Applications /
156 Applicants

Africa

16 Applications /
7 Applicants



Application characteristics and potential uses

Application categories show different aspects of participation and intended use.

REPORTED APPLICATION CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	Count	Share
Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)	21	1.3%
Community-designated applications	16	1.0%
Geographic-name applications	15	0.9%
.Brand applications (Specification 13)	333	20.6%
ASP Supported Applicants	51	3.2%

Specification 13: applications seeking .Brand status, generally for use by the applicant or its affiliates rather than general public registration.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DNS UTILITY

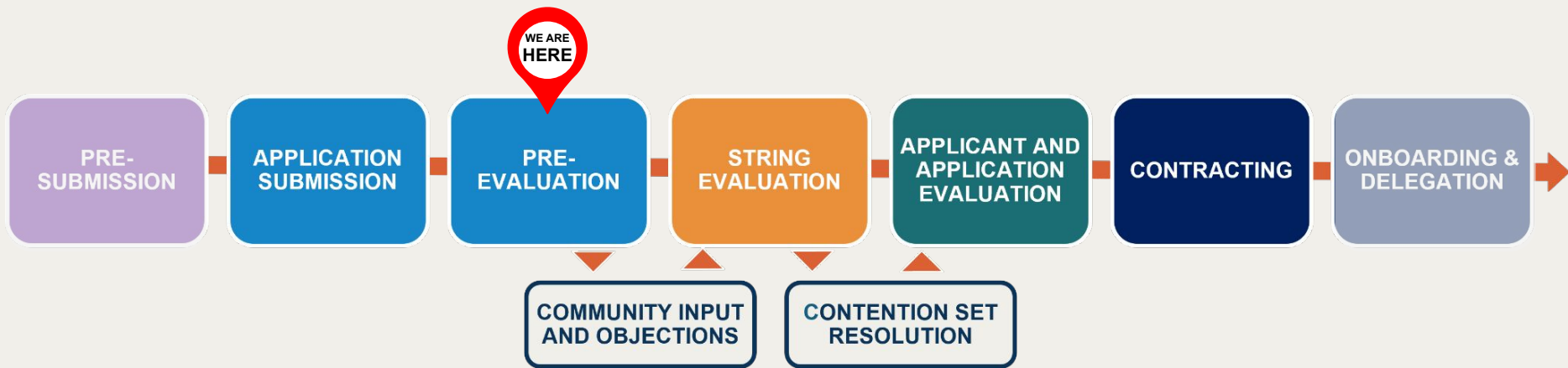
**New services,
business models, and
online identity**

Proposed uses and what is ultimately delivered will determine the contribution to innovation and choice.

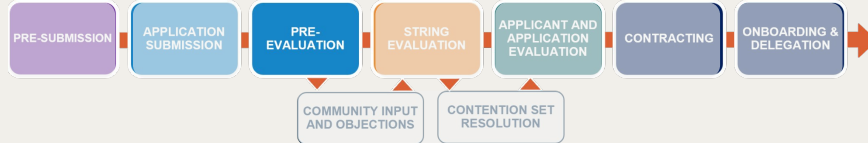
04

What's Next in the Evaluation Process

gTLD Application Processing (GAP) Across the Applicant Journey



After contracting, successful applicants move into onboarding and delegation, which is managed through the contracted-party onboarding process.



Pre-Evaluation Stage Milestones

The gTLD Application Processing team (GAP) is now processing the submitted applications through the five Pre-Evaluation phases.

Step 1

Administrative Check

Date: Complete

Purpose

Payments and administrative completeness are verified, initial contention sets are identified.

Outcome

Applications passing check proceed to Reveal Day.

Step 2

Reveal Day

Date: 7 OCT

Purpose

Public application information is published.

Outcome

Applicants and public see applied-for strings, initial contention sets, and other public application information.

Step 3

Replacement Period

Date: 8-21 OCT

Purpose

Applicants may choose to replace their application with pre-submitted Replacement String application.

Outcome

Application potentially avoids contention.

Step 4

String Confirmation Day

Date: 17 NOV

Purpose

Final applied-for strings and applications are published. Initial list of contention sets is updated.

Outcome

Community Input Period and String Evaluation begins.

Step 5

Prioritization Draw

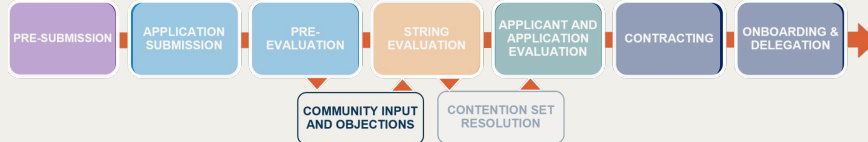
Date: 2027

Purpose

Optional random draw assigns Priority Number for application processing.

Outcome

Establishes processing order.



Community Input, Objections, and Appeals

The ICANN community and the public can provide input on new gTLD applications.

Application Comments

Purpose

Bring issues to the attention of ICANN, applicants and evaluators

Who: Anyone

Duration

String Confirmation Day for duration of program; comments within 104 days or 30 days of specific change requests available to evaluators

Outcome

No direct impact on applications but may be considered by evaluators

GAC Member Early Warning

Purpose

Early indication that an application is potentially problematic for one or more governments

Who: GAC Members and Observers

Duration

104 days

Outcome

No direct impact on application but signal that it could become subject of GAC Consensus Advice

GAC Consensus Advice

Purpose

Provide advice to ICANN Board, including related to applications which are sensitive or violate laws

Who: GAC

Duration

Any time

Outcome

The Board makes a decision as to whether the application can proceed, cannot proceed, or can only proceed with modifications

Singular / Plural Notifications

Purpose

Identifies if an applied-for string is the singular or plural form of another applied-for string, a delegated TLD, a string from a previous new gTLD round, or a Blocked Name

Who: Anyone

Duration

30 days

Outcome

Triggers Singular/plural Evaluation, may prevent application from proceeding

Objections

Purpose

Object to application on grounds of 1) String Confusion 2) Legal Rights 3) Limited Public Interest or 4) Community

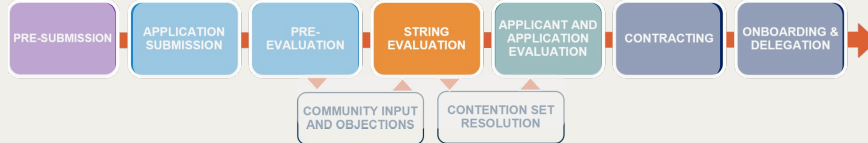
Who: Parties with standing

Duration

104 days

Outcome

Panel determines whether the application can proceed, cannot proceed, or can proceed with modifications



String Evaluation

String Evaluation ensures that each applied-for string is technically secure and compliant with policy.

Geographic Names Identification

Purpose

Confirms whether applied-for strings are geographic names.

Applies to?

All applied-for strings

Outcome

Three possibilities 1) Geographic Name Review, 2) no additional evaluation, 3) application shall not proceed

Singular/Plural Notification Eval.

Purpose

Determines if an applied-for string represents the singular or plural form of the same word in the same language as another applied-for or delegated TLD.

Applies to?

Applications flagged with a singular/plural notification

Outcome

Three possibilities 1) No impact, 2) Contention 3) Application termination

String Similarity Evaluation

Purpose

Identifies if any applied-for string is visually similar to any existing TLDs or Blocked Names or with any other applied-for strings.

Applies to?

All applications

Outcome

Three possibilities 1) No impact 2) Contention 3) Application termination

Safeguard Assessment

Purpose

Determines if an applied-for string requires safeguard public interest commitments in their Registry Agreement related to consumer protection, sensitive uses of strings, regulated industries.

Applies to?

All applications

Outcome

Two possibilities 1) Include Safeguard PICs in applicable RA, 2) No impact

Name Collision Initial Assessment

Purpose

Identifies applied-for strings at high risk of name collision.

Applies to?

All applied-for strings

Outcome

Three possibilities 1) Proceed to temporary delegation 2) Applicant submits Mitigation Plan for Evaluation during Application Evaluation 3) Application does not proceed

05

Application Publication and Statistics

Application Publication and Statistics Website

OVERVIEW

Public portions of applications are published to a searchable database on the [Application Publication and Statistics \(APS\)](#) website.

The site can be used to:

- **Navigate to** information on Statistics, Applications, Contention Sets, and Objections and Appeals pages.
- **Search and filter** information by applicant, application, applied-for string, application type, or other parameters.
- **View** application question responses, application documents.
- **Download** reports on all applications, individual applications, or contention sets.

Links and Resources: [APS User Guide](#)

APPLICANTS

- **Do:** Review information to determine whether the application is in a preliminary contention set.
- **Know:** Options to avoid contention depend on whether a replacement string has been applied for, and the application type.

THE COMMUNITY

- **Do:** Review applied-for-strings to determine if an application causes concern to the stakeholder group you are a part of.
- **Know:** Your community input and objection options determine the best way to share comments or concerns.

APS Website - Navigation

- 1 Overview of 2026 Round **statistics**
- 2 Search public **application** information and documents
- 3 Search **contention set** information (when available)
- 4 Search **objections and appeals** (when available)
- 5 **Links** to New gTLD Program website, Application Comments Forum, about APS and APS Help

Note: Contention sets are currently published in a CSV file accessed from the Applications page.

APS Application Publication and Statistics

1 **STATISTICS** 2 **APPLICATIONS** 3 **CONTENTION SETS** 4 **OBJECTIONS & APPEALS** 5 **Program Site** [Comments](#) [About](#) [Help](#)

Applications

Here you can find a full list of all New gTLD Program: 2026 Round applications and each application's public information, including application status. While "Withdrawn," "Terminated," "Deactivated," and "Delegated" application statuses are final, all other statuses are subject to change. Check back frequently for updates.

Below, you can search and filter applications by applicant, application status, applicant region, TLD type, and more. You can click on individual applications to get more information as well as the option to download an application summary PDF.

Applications with a designated replacement string will be listed as two application records (one for the original applied-for string and one for the replacement string), but will count as a single application on the Statistics tab. After String Confirmation Day, application records for strings that are not selected will have the status "Deactivated."

Search By: Search:

Application Status: Applicant Region: TLD Type: Application Label:

Processing Stage: Applicant Location: Application Type:

[Download CSV](#)

Priority ↑	Primary String ↑	Application ID ↑	Applicant Name ↑	Application Status ↑	Location ↑	Region ↑
> 43	adaquate	WO2699T-T18928	Water Org	Active	US	NA
> 3	amazing	SI2684T-T62168	Sprigter Inc	Active	US	NA
> 7	amazing	TH2696T-T93844	Tech Hub	Pending Termination	US	NA

APS Website - Applications Page

SEARCH ALL APPLICATIONS

- 6 Search by keyword.
- 7 Search using filters.
- 8 Download search results.

VIEW APPLICATION DETAILS

- 9 Click to view individual applications and documents.

Note: Once accessed, individual application details and documents can be searched, filtered, and downloaded.

The screenshot displays the APS Application Publication and Statistics website. The top navigation bar includes links for Program Site, Comments, About, and Help. The main content area is divided into four tabs: STATISTICS, APPLICATIONS (selected), CONTENTION SETS, and OBJECTIONS & APPEALS. The APPLICATIONS tab shows a section titled "Applications" with a description of the search functionality. Below the description is a search and filter interface. This interface includes a search bar (labeled 6) with a dropdown menu and a text input field. Below the search bar are several filter dropdowns (labeled 7) for Application Status, Applicant Region, TLD Type, Application Label, Processing Stage, Applicant Location, and Application Type. A "Clear" button and a "Search" button are located at the bottom of the filter section. To the right of the filter section is a "Download CSV" button (labeled 8). Below the filter section is a table of application results. The table has columns for Priority, Primary String, Application ID, Applicant Name, Application Status, Location, and Region. The first row (labeled 9) shows a priority of 43, primary string "adaquate", application ID "WO2699T-T18928", applicant "Water Org", status "Active", location "US", and region "NA". The second row shows a priority of 3, primary string "amazing", application ID "SI2684T-T62168", applicant "Sprigter Inc", status "Active", location "US", and region "NA". The third row shows a priority of 7, primary string "amazing", application ID "TH2696T-T93844", applicant "Tech Hub", status "Pending Termination", location "US", and region "NA".

APS Application Publication and Statistics

Program Site Comments About Help

STATISTICS APPLICATIONS CONTENTION SETS OBJECTIONS & APPEALS

Applications

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6 Search By Select... Search Type Keyword

7 Application Status Select... Applicant Region Select... TLD Type Select... Application Label Select... Processing Stage Select... Applicant Location Select... Application Type Select...

Clear Search

8 Download CSV

Priority	Primary String	Application ID	Applicant Name	Application Status	Location	Region
43	adaquate	WO2699T-T18928	Water Org	Active	US	NA
3	amazing	SI2684T-T62168	Sprigter Inc	Active	US	NA
7	amazing	TH2696T-T93844	Tech Hub	Pending Termination	US	NA

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

gTLD

Thank You

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n



instagram.com/icannorg



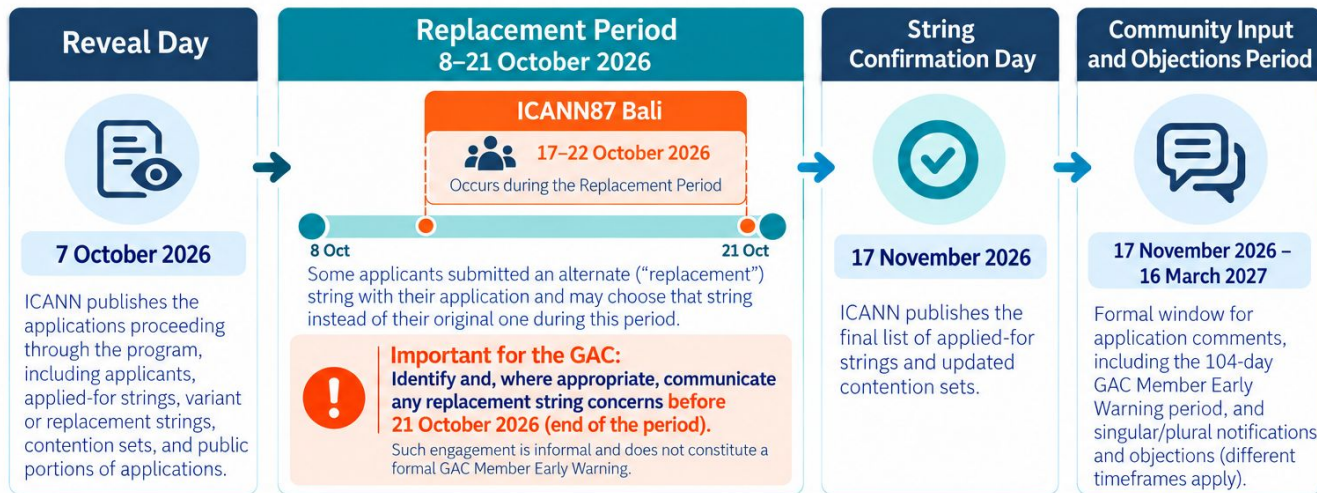
GAC Readiness for New gTLD Program: 2026 Round

Marco Hogewoning - Netherlands
Benedetta Rossi - ICANN org

Where We Are Now

2026 Next Round: Key Milestones for GAC Planning

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



Source: ICANN announcement ‘ICANN Announces Date for Reveal Day and Other 2026 Round Milestones’ (29 September 2026).

What the GAC Has Put in Place

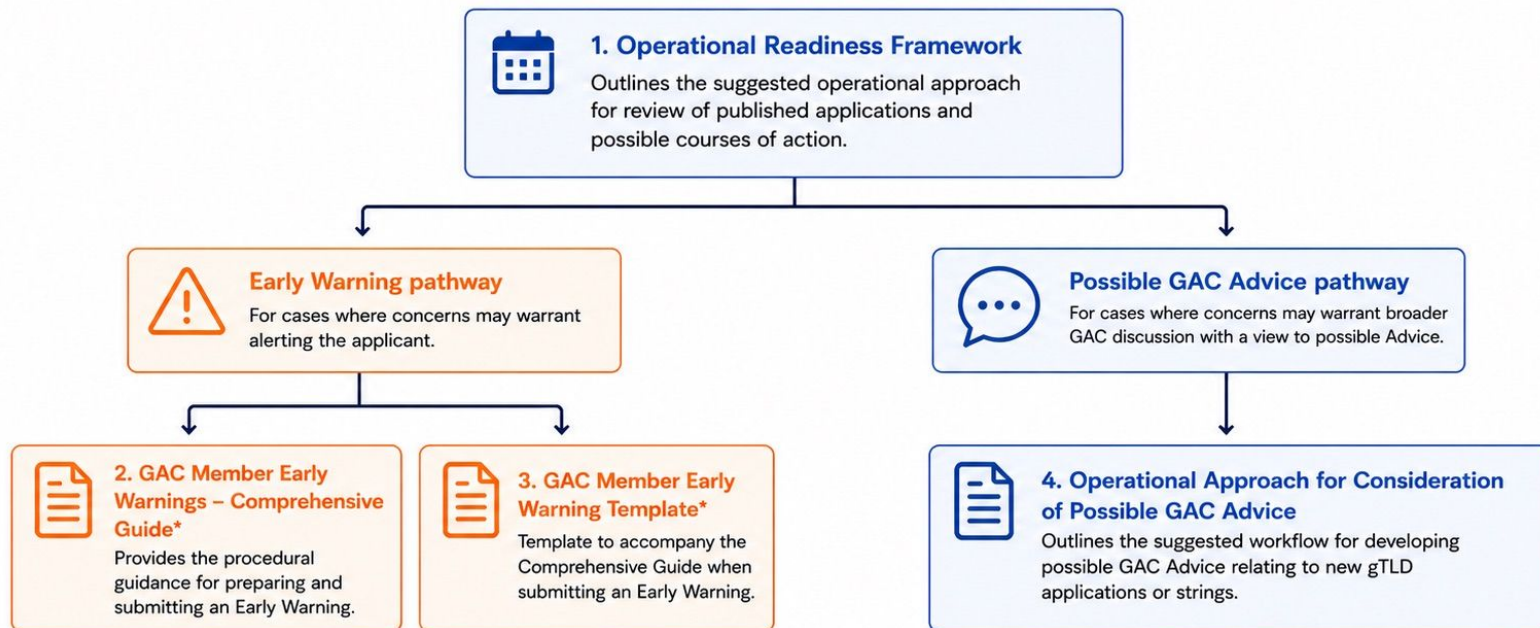
Since ICANN86, the GAC has:

- Developed an **Operational Readiness Framework** to support GAC engagement as the Round progresses
- Established a **phased approach** for reviewing published applications
- Developed **operational approaches and supporting materials** for GAC Member Early Warnings and the consideration of possible GAC Advice
- Prepared guidance and templates for Members and Observers
- Updated its readiness planning to reflect the **confirmed 2026 Round milestones**

Operational Guidance: How the Documents Work Together

GAC Review of New gTLD Applications (2026 Round)

Operational guidance package – how the documents work together



Key Point: These documents do not replace the ICANN Bylaws, the GAC Operating Principles or the Applicant Guidebook. They provide suggested operational approaches to support timely, transparent and coordinated engagement by the GAC.

* The Early Warning Guide and Template have been reviewed and approved by the GAC and are included here for completeness.

Readiness Materials - Quick Recap

- **Operational Readiness Framework**

Overall approach for GAC review and engagement across the different phases of the Round.

- **GAC Member Early Warnings – Comprehensive Guide**

Procedural guidance for preparing and submitting an Early Warning.

- **GAC Member Early Warning Template**

Common format for Early Warning submissions.

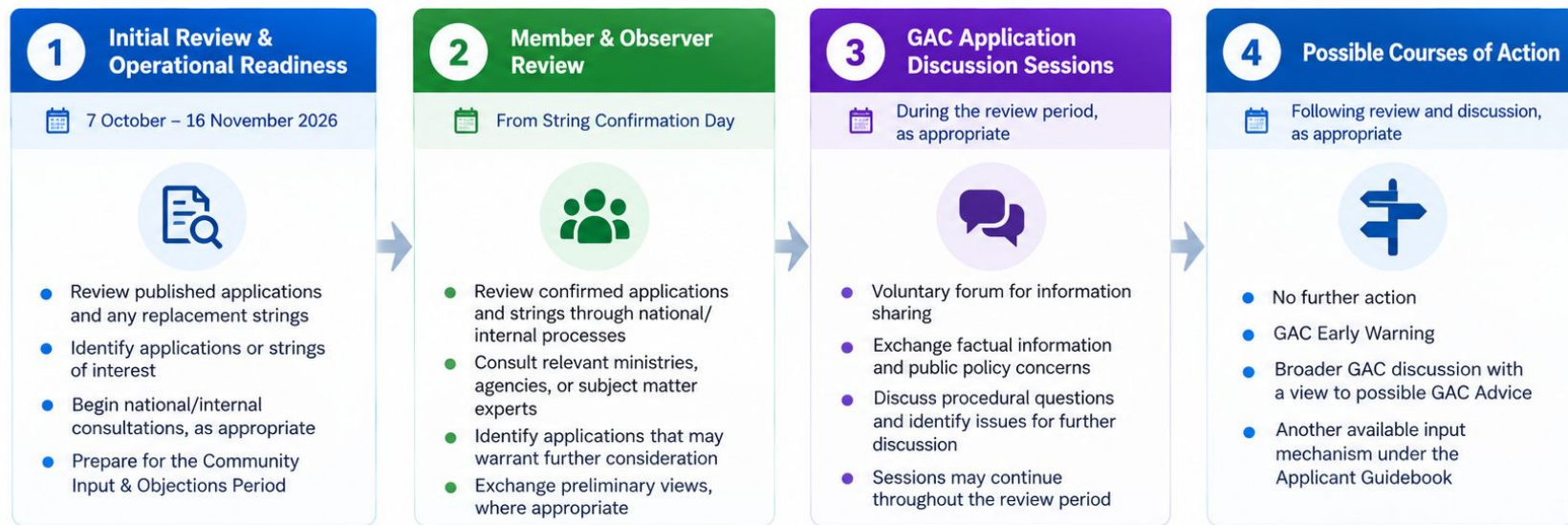
- **Operational Approach for Consideration of Possible GAC Advice**

Suggested workflow for broader GAC consideration of issues that may warrant possible Advice.

Operational Readiness Framework - Phased Approach

GAC Review of New gTLD Applications (2026 Round)

Operational Readiness Framework – Phased Approach



Key Point:

This framework supports timely, transparent and coordinated GAC engagement. It does not replace the ICANN Bylaws, the GAC Operating Principles, or the Applicant Guidebook, and does not create any additional GAC decision-making mechanism.

Next Steps

- **Continue initial review** of published applications and any applicable replacement strings.
- **Use the period before String Confirmation Day** to identify applications or issues that may warrant further attention and begin national or internal consultations, as appropriate.
- **Following String Confirmation Day**, move into the more detailed review of confirmed applications and strings and make use of the relevant GAC discussion and input mechanisms, as appropriate.

PLENARY 1

Discussion / Questions

GAC Operational Readiness for the 2026 Round



GAC | NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

