

ICANN85 At-Large: Plenary Topics / Sujets de Plenières / Temas de plenaria

This form is to submit details on your topic of interest for the ICANN85 At-Large Plenary session.

Name and Affiliation

Pari Esfandiari - ALAC/EURALO

Proposed Session Title / Titre de Session Proposé / Título de la sesión propuesta*

The User's Path Through an Evolving DNS: What Breaks, What Works, and Who Is Responsible?

Under which At-Large Priority Activities 2026 work track area does this topic fall?

See list of tracks: [ALAC FY2026 Strategic Priorities & Core Activities](#)

Primary: Work Track 2 – Strengthening End-User Trust, Security, and Protection in the DNS Ecosystem

Secondary: Work Track 1 – Governance Evolution & Safeguarding the Global Internet and Unique Identifier System

Brief Description / Brève description / Breve descripción*

This highly interactive plenary explores what end-users experience as the DNS environment evolves and becomes more complex. The session takes a **scenario-based, interactive approach** to examine what users encounter when the DNS behaves differently in practice. Through three short, realistic examples, participants will explore:

- what breaks from the end-user perspective,
- what continues to work and why, and
- who holds responsibility across the ecosystem when outcomes diverge.

Rather than technical deep dives, this session focuses on how users experience these changes and what protections, expectations, and accountability structures should exist.

Live polling and open discussion ensure broad, community-driven insight.

Rationale/Desired Outcomes - Justification/Résultats souhaités / Justificación/Resultados deseados*

Outcomes include:

- A structured **mapping of real user pathways** through DNS inconsistencies.
- Identification of the points where **failures occur**—technical, operational, or policy-driven.
- A clearer understanding of **responsibility allocation** among operators, regulators, industry, and ICANN.
- A draft set of **“End-User Protection Principles for the Evolving DNS.”**
- Actionable input for ALAC's FY26 advice on interoperability, resilience, and user protections.

This session fills a gap: it brings together governance shifts, operational realities, and user-level impact in one cohesive framework.

How would the outcomes of your session assist in the pursuit of the FY2026 ALAC Strategic Priorities [ALAC FY2026 Strategic Priorities & Core Activities](#) or some other longer term direction for the At-Large?*

Strengthening End-User Trust & Security:

- Illuminates how inconsistencies and divergences affect real users.
- Highlights user harms and mitigations essential to trust.

Governance Evolution:

- Helps ALAC anticipate how global regulatory and governance trends may affect DNS behavior.
- Supports advice on maintaining interoperability in an environment with growing national divergence.

Global Public Interest Leadership:

- Places users at the center of the DNS narrative, aligning with ALAC's mandate.
- Incorporates regional perspectives on fragmentation and DNS variability.

Which, if any, other community groups do you plan to involve in your session? Please explain your plans for working cooperatively with the group(s), including your contacts, skill sets sought, etc.*

- **SSAC & OCTO** — technical and architectural clarity for the scenarios.
- **GNSO & ccNSO** — contractual, operational, and policy perspectives.
- **RALO representatives** — insights into real user experiences globally.
- **GAC (optional)** — invited only if relevant to regulatory contexts, not essential.

Collaboration will include co-developed scenarios, shared polling questions, and pre-session coordination to ensure diversity of perspectives without overwhelming scope.

Session Leaders/Facilitators and Panelists/Presenters - Facilitateurs de session et présentateurs - Líderes de sesión/facilitadores y panelistas/presentadores*

TBD

Are you planning on inviting any ICANN Board members/Executives? If so, please list hereafter in order for Staff to work with Board Operations on invitations.*

- Tripti Sinha, ICANN Board Chair – expertise on fragmentation and global architecture
- ICANN CTO Office – to comment on technical feasibility and risks

Additional information or comments /

This plenary is intentionally hands-on and forward-looking, suitable for a community meeting where interaction and shared learning are emphasized. By anchoring the

discussion in realistic user scenarios, it allows ALAC to highlight end-user concerns without repeating past sessions.