



# HOW TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN THE IAC

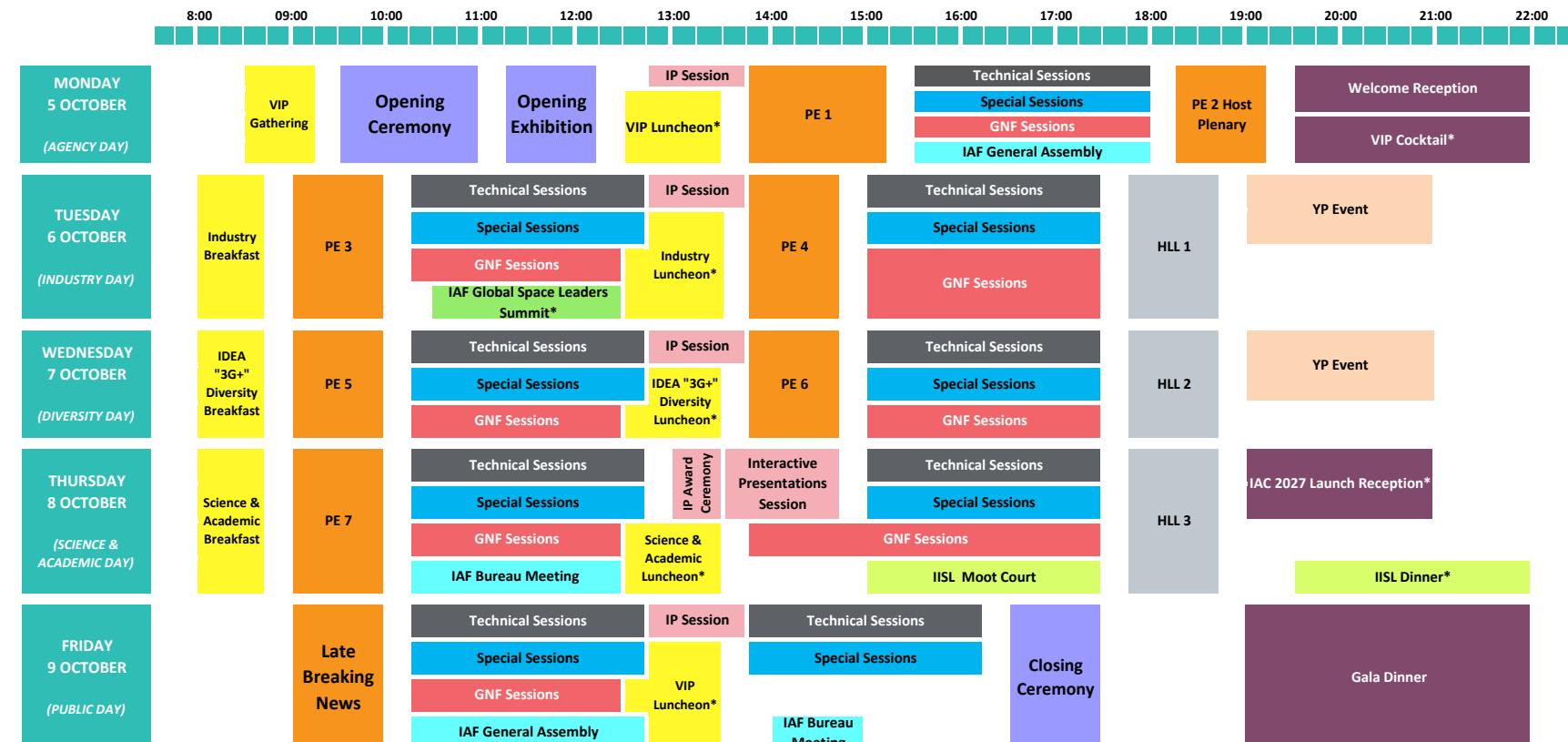


The International Astronautical Congress (IAC) is a five day congress taking place during the September/October timeframe each year in a different location around the world. The upcoming **77<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)** will be held in **Antalya, Türkiye** between **5 - 9 October 2026**.

The IAC is not only a Congress, but a gathering of the international space community that actively contributes to shaping a different and exciting programme every year. There are several different ways that you can actively be part of the congress and this guide will help you better understand which role you and your organization can play at the IAC and the various deadlines to meet. Here below you can find the IAC Congress at a Glance with the general schedule for the main IAC events: Plenaries, IAF Global Networking Forum (GNF) Sessions, Technical Sessions, Special Sessions and the Interactive Presentation (IP) Sessions.

Should you have any questions or any doubts on where your submission would be most suitable within the IAC programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the IAF Secretariat at [support@iafastro.org](mailto:support@iafastro.org)

Be Part of the Conversation at IAC 2026!



Connecting *all* Space People

# BECOME AN ACTOR AT IAC 2026

## PLENARY PROGRAMME

### Who can Apply?



IAF Member Organizations  
representatives

### How to Apply?

Fill in Plenary Application  
Form and send to  
[plenary@iafastro.org](mailto:plenary@iafastro.org)

IPC Steering Group

### When is the Deadline to Apply?

6 February 2026

## IAF GNF Sessions



IAF Member Organizations  
and Sponsors

Fill in GNF Application  
Form and submit to  
[gnf@iafastro.org](mailto:gnf@iafastro.org)

IAF Vice President for GNF

*Please note that each proposal shall only be submitted once to either a Plenary, IAF GNF or SpS session.  
Proposals that are submitted multiple times will automatically be disqualified.*

## TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

### Technical Sessions



Open to Everyone



Open to Everyone

### Special Sessions

Fill in online Abstract  
Submission Form at  
<https://iafastro.directory/>

International Programme  
Committee (IPC) led by the  
Category Coordinators

Fill in online Special Session  
Application Form at  
<https://iafastro.directory/>

IPC Steering Group

28 February 2026

# PLENARY PROGRAMME

## ELEMENTS



### Plenary Events

Open to IAF Members only



### IAF Global Networking Forum (GNF)

Open to IAF Members, sponsors and newly applying IAF Members

Topic to be of interest to a large segment of Congress attendees



**300-1000 Delegates**

**12 Total Slots**

7 PEs

2/3 HLLs

1/2 LBNs

#### Evaluation Criteria:

- Proposed topic (Industry, Exploration, Next Generation, Emerging Countries, Environment, Other)
- Event Format:
  - PEs: 4/7 Speakers and a Moderator
  - HLLs: 1/2 Speakers and a Moderator
  - LBNs: flexible format
- Originality of the proposal, as compared to recent IAC Plenary Events
- Timeliness of the topic with respect to current developments in the space sector
- Relevance of the proposal to the theme of the congress
- Quality and expertise of the proposed presenters
- Ability of the proposers and organizers to obtain the proposed presenters and execute a quality event

[More Info HERE](#)



**100-300 Delegates**

**+/- 20 slots**

#### Evaluation Criteria:

- Topics (Industry, Exploration, Culture, Diversity, Legal and Policy, Development, etc.)
- Event format:
  - panel discussions
  - keynote lectures
  - workshops
  - pitch competitions
  - corporate promotional events
- Relevance of the proposal to the theme of the congress
- Quality and originality of the proposal
- Relevance with regards to the current space sector developments
- Ability of the organizers to obtain the proposed speakers and execute a quality event
- Possibility for the organizer to sponsor the session

[More Info HERE](#)

# TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

## ELEMENTS



### Technical Sessions (TS) & Interactive Presentations (IP)

Open to everyone \*(submission and onsite presentation does not apply for delegates who intend to register as press, accompanying persons or exhibitor staff)

Topic to be of interest to a targeted segment of the Congress attendees



50-250 Delegates

TS: +/- 2000 slots  
IP: +/- 800 slots

#### Evaluation Criteria:

- Topics
  - Science and Exploration
  - Applications and Operations
  - Technology
  - Infrastructure
  - Space and Society
- Direct applicability of the abstract submission to aeronautics
- Scientific merit, originality and attractiveness of the subject
- Compliance with the word count and format requirements for abstracts
- Event Format:
  - oral presentation of 10-20 minutes
  - interactive presentation of 10 minutes

[More Info HERE](#)



### Special Sessions (SpS)

Open to everyone \*(submission and onsite presentation does not apply for delegates who intend to register as press, accompanying persons or exhibitor staff)



50-200 Delegates

+/- 20 slots

#### Evaluation Criteria:

- Innovative event format:
  - workshop
  - campfire
  - fishbowl
  - samoan circle
  - design sprint
  - orca bowl challenge
  - open options (**panels will not be considered**)
- Special Sessions shall complement the regular Technical Programme with multidisciplinary topics that highlight current scientific and technical trends in space
- Participatory session focusing on audience engagement
- Quality of contents
- Relevance to the theme of the Congress

[More Info HERE](#)