IGF-USA Kickoff Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 22, 2021

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. 2021 Format and Timing
3. Timeline and Milestones
4. Topic and Panel Selection
   a. Call for Topics
   b. Results from 2020
5. Interim and Pre-Events
   a. Example from 2020
6. Discussion on global IGF
   a. IGF 2021 Call for Thematic Inputs
   b. NRI Activities and Looking Ahead to IGF 2021
7. Financial Update
   a. Final Report from 2020
      i. Fundraising 2018-2020
8. Any other Business

Attendees
- Dustin Loup, Co-Chair of IGF-USA
- Melinda Clem, Co-Chair of IGF-USA
- Michael Nelson, Carnegie Endowment
- Judith Hellerstein, Hellerstein & Associates
- George Sadowksy, ISOC Board
- Courtney Radsch, Committee to Protect Journalists
- Robert Hershey, Independent Engineering and Management Consultant
- James Galvin, Donuts
- Anna Higgins, ISOC
- Naela Sarris, ICANN
- John More, ISOC-DC
- Chanel Adikuono, DC USAID
- Annette Suriani, IGF-USA Event Organizer
- Katie Noyes, FBI
Minutes

1. Introductions, meeting overview

2. Format, date, and location of IGF-USA still unknown due to COVID-19 pandemic.
   → question posed to attendees surrounding preferences of virtual vs. in-person event, and how timing should be adjusted accordingly:
   a. Potential for an outdoor event, looser guidelines
   b. Decision is difficult to make today, should probably be made around late March/early April when topics are selected
   c. Opportunity to be less DC-centric, should be at least a virtual component
   d. Options: In-person (strictly limits attendance), hybrid (difficult because in-person attendees dominate), or virtual (if chosen, should start catering to this format as soon as possible)
      i. Potential for two separate phases (virtual day and in-person day, or smaller focus groups in-person, rest online)
e. General consensus against pushing conference later because everyone else adjusting events, so fall will be busy, and summer weather would be best if the in-person part was held outside
f. Virtual pre-event promoting IGF-USA attendance
g. Further discussion next meeting to hopefully make a decision

3. **Tentative Timeline Overview:**
   a. Attendees encouraged to promote and share call for topics
   b. Select topics from highest scoring ones on the survey → teams established to shape each seminar
   c. Tentatively planning on a two-day conference with 8-10 topics

4. Discussion of meeting time and dates
   a. Like Fridays because often not a lot of meetings
   b. Decided on Thursday 3:00-5:00

5. Event Ideas:
   a. Trivia, interactive events, virtual bartending

6. Pre-Events
   a. Last year pre-event with PEW for discussion of issues and research, planning something this year a few weeks before the conference
   b. Potential for smaller side-events across the country

7. Global IGF looking for IGF-USA’s input on three issues they should prioritize
   a. Content moderation, shaping, and accountability on multiple layers
   b. General lack of understanding of the different layers of the internet
   c. Greater investigation into new technologies
   d. Trust in identity (robots, trolls), disinformation, what’s real and what’s not
   e. New models of collaboration
   f. Digital divide
   g. Use of anonymized internet data for scientific purposes
   h. User security, company accountability
   i. Who controls the internet?
   j. Multistakeholder process
   k. Section 230 and free speech
   l. Disinformation
   m. COVID-19 effects
   n. Commerce, currency, and social media laws and taxation
o. Final Topic Themes: Content conduct, shaping, and accountability; connectivity, inclusion, and COVID-19 response and recovery; digital markets, advertisement, currency, media, and taxation
   i. Focus on emerging technologies within each of these topics
   ii. Power: who should it belong to, and where should it be exercised?
p. Email coming with synthesized topics, feedback welcome

8. Financial Update:
   a. At end of 2019, had $1,200 left from year before
   b. Now have $29,000 (mainly due to the virtual format of last year’s conference), with $100 to $200 allocated for operation → excellent financial shape

9. Call for Topics
   a. Think about interest level and experts that could be involved in presenting
   b. Be very specific