



## IGF-USA 2021 Steering Committee Meeting #2 Minutes

Thursday, February 25, 2021, 3:00 - 4:30 pm EST

### Agenda

1. Introductions
2. IGF-USA 2021 ([Open Survey](#))
  - a. Format
  - b. Dates
  - c. [Number of Sessions and Structure](#)
3. [Review Results of the Open Call for Topics](#)
4. Next Steps
  - a. Survey
  - b. Timeline
5. AOB

### Attendees

- Alicia Gomez, FBI
- Annette Suriani, IGF-USA Event Organizer
- Ann Morton, i2Coalition
- Anna Higgins, ISOC
- Berry Cobb, Independent Consultant around ICTs
- Beth Bacon, PIR
- Courtney Radsch, Committee to Protect Journalists
- Dan Caprio, The Providence Group
- Dustin Loup, Co-Chair of IGF-USA
- Ethan Wham
- Brett Berlin
- James Galvin, Donuts
- Jessica Dheere, Ranking Digital Rights
- Jim Prendergast
- Joe Catapano, ICANN
- John More, ISOC-DC
- John Perrino
- Jonathan Zuck, The Innovators Network Foundation
- Judith Hellerstein, Hellerstein & Associates
- Katie Jordan, ISOC
- Lee McNight, Syracuse University iSchool

- Nik Smith, Verisign
- Marina Polachek, National Grid [US]
- Mathew Johnson, INTA
- Melinda Clem, Co-Chair of IGF-USA
- Michael Nelson, Carnegie Endowment
- Roger Caruth, Howard University
- Naela Sarras, ICANN
- Parker Kobayashi, Charles Koch Institute
- Paul Eisler, US Telecom
- Ryan Johnston, Next Century Cities
- Russel Baird Tewksbury, MarketWorks LLC
- Samuel Speed
- Sivasubramanian M, WABAG
- Steve DelBianco, NetChoice
- Susan Mohr, Lumen
- Wilson Cristancho, Network Media Communications

#### 1. Virtual Format:

- a. Can't have gatherings in DC for more than 10 people, so virtual format isn't currently realistic
- b. Final conclusion to have a virtual event
- c. From survey results so far: Conference likely going to be either week of July 12-16, or July 19-23, 2 days, and 5-6 hours each day
- d. Option for another chat function besides zoom that accommodates for people on livestream
- e. IETF week after July 19-23, shouldn't plan it too close because could cause speaker conflicts

#### 2. Conference Sessions:

- a. Looking to have many different sessions, because last year people tended to drop in for a session or two they were specifically interested in
- b. Aiming for 12 sessions (similar to last year)
- c. Can be flexible (don't have to keep times for sessions and between them the same, different topics need different amounts of time)
- d. Instead of just having a Q+A, let it be more of a discussion (often many experts in the audience, should be able to comment and engage)
- e. Lightning talks (shorter format, involving youth/community)
- f. Polling and breakout rooms are good ways to keep people engaged

#### 3. Topics Survey:

- a. Organize submissions into a way that's easier to understand on a survey
- b. Community has around 2 weeks to provide feedback

- c. Meet again to select final topics, team sign-up for each topic
4. Call for Topics Results Discussion:
- a. [Results breakdown](#)
  - b. Instead of trying to cram many different submissions into one broad category, should try and pick a few key ideas to focus on
  - c. Unlike in previous years, where around 12 topics are narrowed down to 8, going to have a less defined list to get an idea of where the interest is within topics (may have multiple events focusing on different aspects of the same overarching topic)
  - d. 3-4 topics not yet determined for the Global IGF because of the new UN Roadmap on Digital Cooperation (within it a call for conferences to be more action and policy oriented), best practice groups are Cybersecurity, Local Content, Gender, and Policy Network (Environment and Sustainability and Access and Inclusion)
  - e. Need to look beyond US and Europe, think broader (Global Cooperation theme)
  - f. What does IGF-USA do best? What topics can we shed light on that aren't getting the attention they should? → Need new conversations
  - g. Could have a closing session that could look to the future → what will next year and beyond look like, and how can IGF-USA prepare for this new world (future of work, AI)?
  - h. Businesses, scientists, engineers, and governments collaborating globally on IOT, international technical standards of development → needs to be flexible domestically to avoid fragmentation, the opposite of the original goal → globally harmonized policy
  - i. Many different categories/pathways/levels involved in discussing an issue or meeting a goal, should pick the "lever" that is the most important and relevant for each specific topic/theme to real focus on a specific aspect
  - j. Should maybe not get too specific on the actual survey so that the process can occur quickly in order to allot more time for planning and fundraising, teams can be in charge of narrowing down final topics into something very specialized
  - k. Have to keep topics survey somewhat flexible so that all 121 submissions are represented (shouldn't just be picking one from each category), but also make sure planning committee is interested in working on them
  - l. IGF-USA strengths: Conversation about new topics/things that haven't already been discussed, multidisciplinary discussion with speakers from varying professions and perspectives,

- m. Options: Create a list of around 15 specific topics to be voted on to keep things simple and efficient, have a broader, lengthier set of topics so that it is clearer how broader categories interact with specific themes of interest and survey-takers have greater influence, or everyone just specifies what topics they would be interested in seeing from the long topic list using matrix (can vote as many times as they want, whatever has the most interest wins)
- n. Conclusion: Will look into different survey options, present them each, and see which one people like best, can host a specific survey call if need be