

Report from the IGF-USA 2019: Submitted by Marilyn Cade and Dustin Phillips, co-coordinators of IGF-USA to NRI Network

Location: The IGF-USA 2019 is scheduled for July 25, at the CSIS headquarters in Washington, DC.

**Session Topics:**

Session Topics were selected by following IGF-USA's bottom-up process, including an open call for topics and an open survey. We received 75 submissions with each major stakeholder group making contributions. These 75 submissions were synthesized into 15 panel options, which were then ranked by respondents. We received 119 responses, with 47 coming from complete newcomers.

Based on the results, the IGF-USA Steering Committee confirmed the selection of 8 session topics: Data Governance and Accountability; Cybersecurity and safety; TechLash in 2019; Platform Liability for User Content and Commerce; Antitrust vs Big Tech; Artificial Intelligence; Inclusion; 5G enabling Tech Innovation. From these 8 sessions, we will select 2 for plenaries (main sessions), based on the interest in the topic and the availability of prominent keynotes.

Three of these topics are aligned with the three key themes of the IGF. We included these three in the survey by design, but did not require them to be included in this year's program. As the IGF-USA community ranked these topics highly, they will be part of the IGF-USA 2019. Our other topics stretch beyond these themes, although several of them are relevant to the themes.

The IGF-USA 2019 will be streamed globally by Joly MacFie and we hope to have Elon University's Imagining the Internet team reporting on the program, as well.

**Additional Initiatives in progress:**

We are developing Day Zero event for youth and students. The planning is still underway, but it will be led by students, with several university professors and other community members providing guidance and support, as needed. There is no defined age, but is currently focused on undergraduate, masters and Ph.D students. This renewed approach, will aim to be an evolution of the IGF-USA and previous youth workshops. Outcomes of the Youth Day will be included in IGF-USA 2019 on July 25.

In 2018, IGF-USA held several events across the country as part of an IGF-USA "On the Road" series. This year, the IGF-USA will look to build on this with additional events and outreach across the country, the first of which was hosted by the Annenberg Research Network on International Communications at the University of Southern California. Several more are under development. We see this as a way to broaden awareness of the importance of engagement in Internet Governance and create further interest in the IGF-USA and also the IGF itself.