

Presentation to the Internet Society Board of Trustees

# The Middle East Bureau

## Shaping the future of the Internet together



Friday 9 November 2018  
Marriott Marquis Queen's Park Hotel  
Bangkok, Thailand

# Outline

## Setting the Scene

- Who we are
- Goals & objectives
- Major Accomplishments

## Policy Considerations

## ME 2019 Plan of Activities

- Strategy and Action Plan



# Introducing the Team

## Policy Advisor

Nermine EL Saadany



**28** years of experience  
Start Date: 1 Aug 2018

Technology Advisor



## Regional Bureau Director

Salam Yamout



**30** years of experience  
Start Date: 1 Nov 2016

## *Special Thanks To:*

Jane Coffin, Christine Saegesser,  
Dawit Bekele, Konstantinos  
Komaitis, Kevin Meynell

## Community Manager

Layal Jebran



**8** years of experience  
Start Date: 21 May 2018

Communications



# The Geo-Political Scene

- Population of 240 Million people
- Different definitions for “Middle East”
- 3 economically diverse sub-regions
- Political and/or economically stability at risk due to tensions amongst regional and international powers.



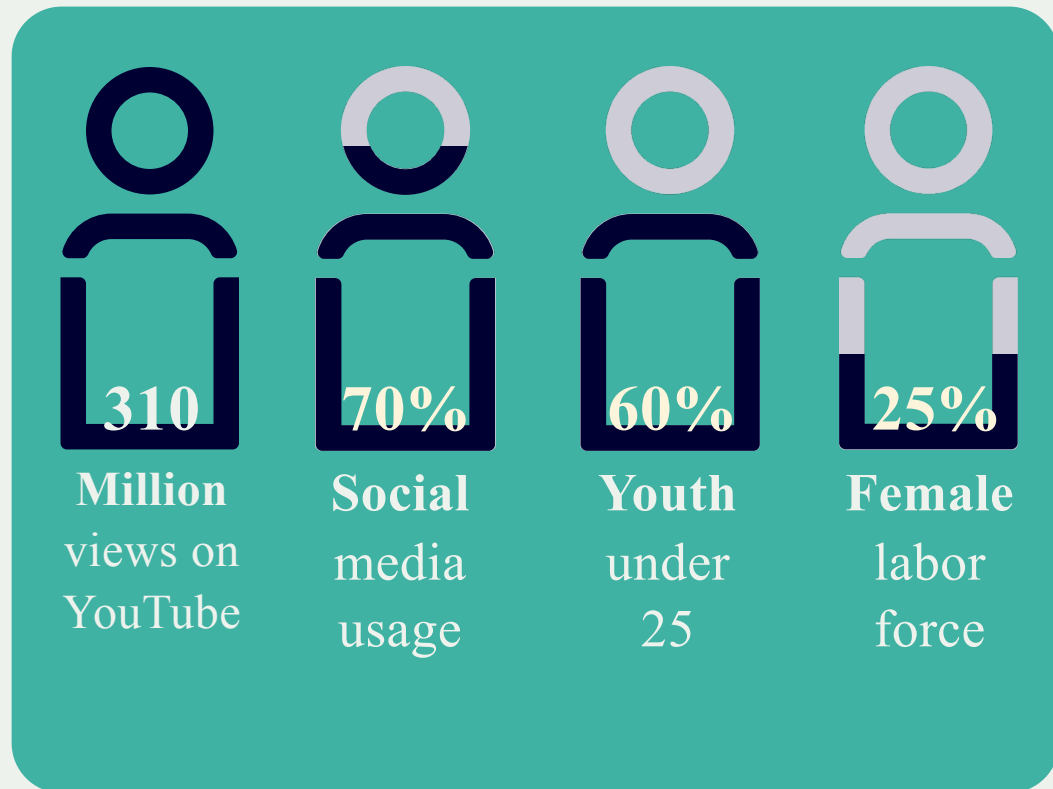
GCC

LEVANT & North Africa

War Torn Countries



# Demography and Social Structure



اللغة العربية هي اللغة الرسمية لـ 240 مليون شخص

*Arabic is the official language for 240 million people.*



But... there is a lack of collaboration, coordination...

# Digital Economy



85% of local traffic is routed through Europe



56.4% average Internet penetration across the Middle East



7-18% online corporate presence



1% e-commerce volume



Non-competitive behavior, and some outdated regulatory regimes.

# ME Bureau Approach

## COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Engage all partners  
and stakeholders.

Emphasis on  
governments

## BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Build the community  
of Internet  
stakeholders,  
especially among  
the youth

Concentrate on  
Technology

## STRONG VOICE

Position Internet  
Society as an  
influencer.

Be a trusted and  
neutral source of  
information



# Major Accomplishments





# Building Partnerships

I\*



## Technical Community



## Private Sector



## International Organizations



# Engaging Governments

Conducted Meetings with regulators and ministers of the following countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, UAE





# Engaging the Technical Community



IXP Workshop, Lebanon Jan 2017



Intro to IETF, Jordan Sept 2017



IXP Workshop, Jordan Aug 2018



IXP Workshop, Bahrain Oct 2018



# Bringing the Community Together



Meeting with the GCC Community during  
ITU-PP18, Dubai



Enabling Digital  
Opportunities



MEAC-SIG 2018  
Cairo Egypt



ME Chapters  
Meeting during  
MENOG Oman  
2017



3 Blockchain  
Workshops  
(Jordan, Lebanon,  
UAE) 2018



# ME Chapters

Chapters	Members
Bahrain	170
Lebanon	731
Palestine	231
UAE	472
Yemen	347
Coordination with African Bureau	
Egypt	607
Morocco	599
Tunisia	601
2018 New Chapters Focus	
Jordan	Non-Chapter Members: 197
Oman	Non-Chapter Members: 84

Percentage of growth (2017 to 2018) = 18%

**From 3,894 to 4,730 Members**



# Policy Considerations



# Regional Concerns

Security



Unemployment



Social Media



Technology Trends



# ME Bureau Challenges

Engage Governments



Technical Know-How



Build the Community

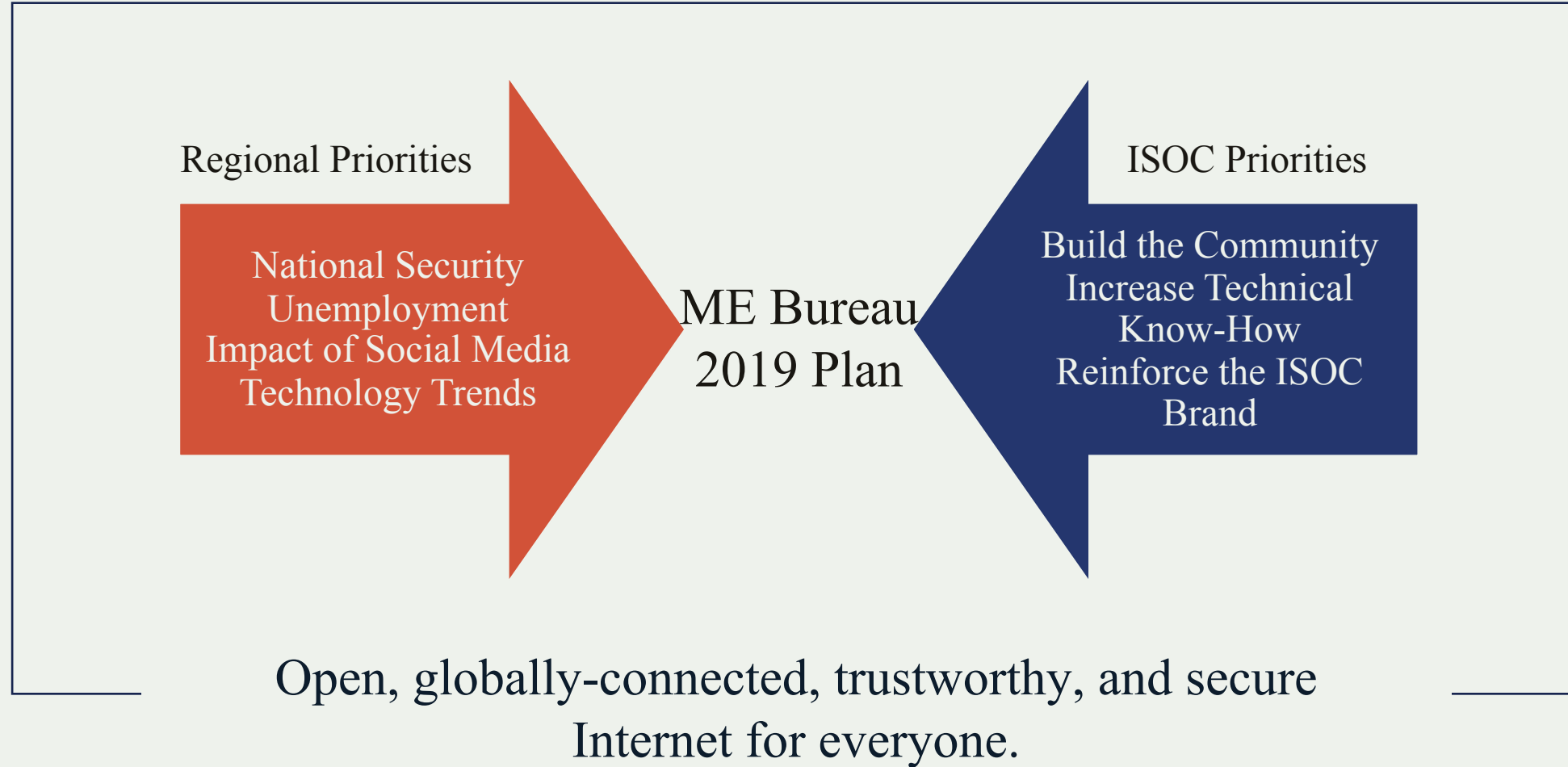


Brand





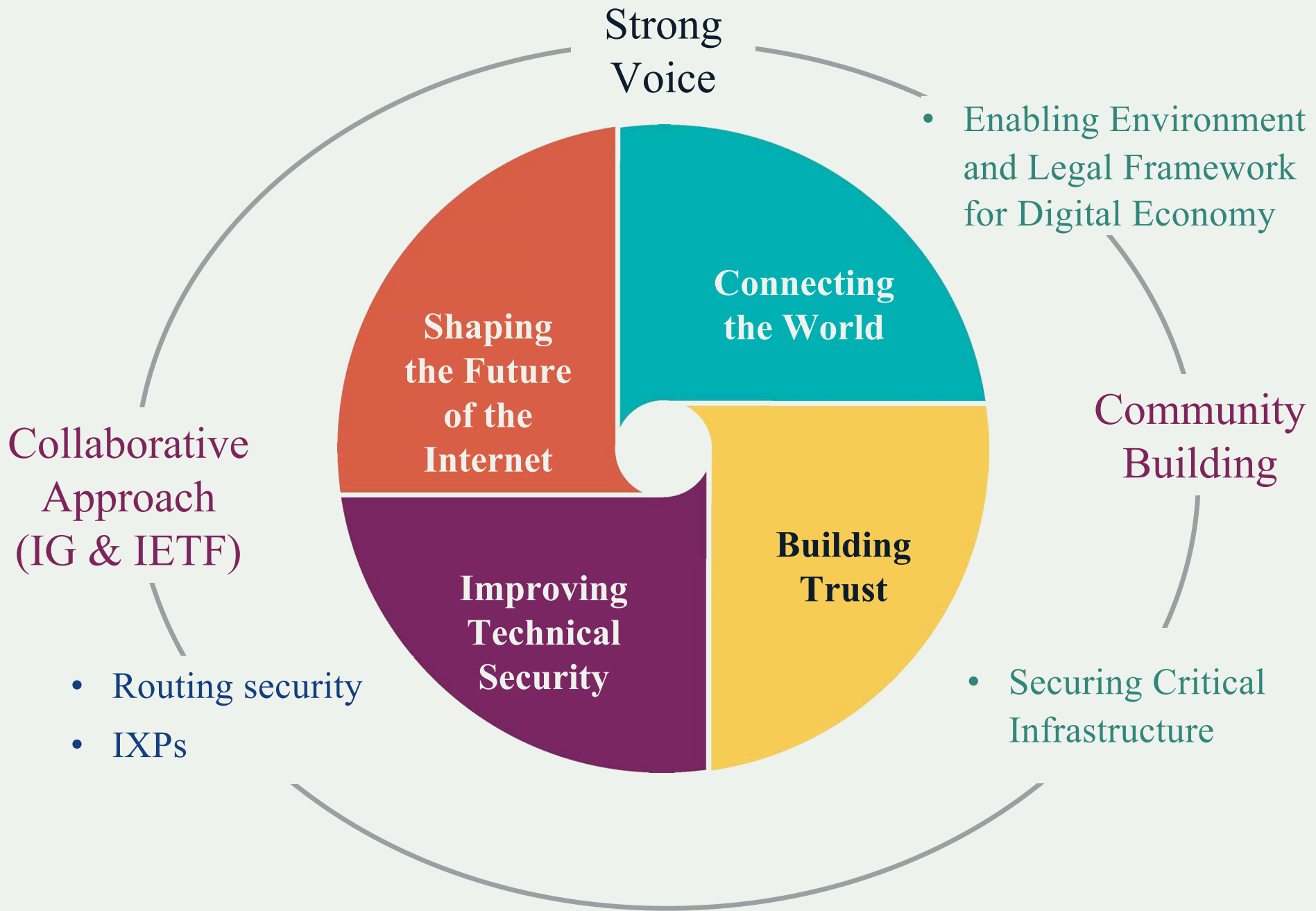
# Striking the Balance

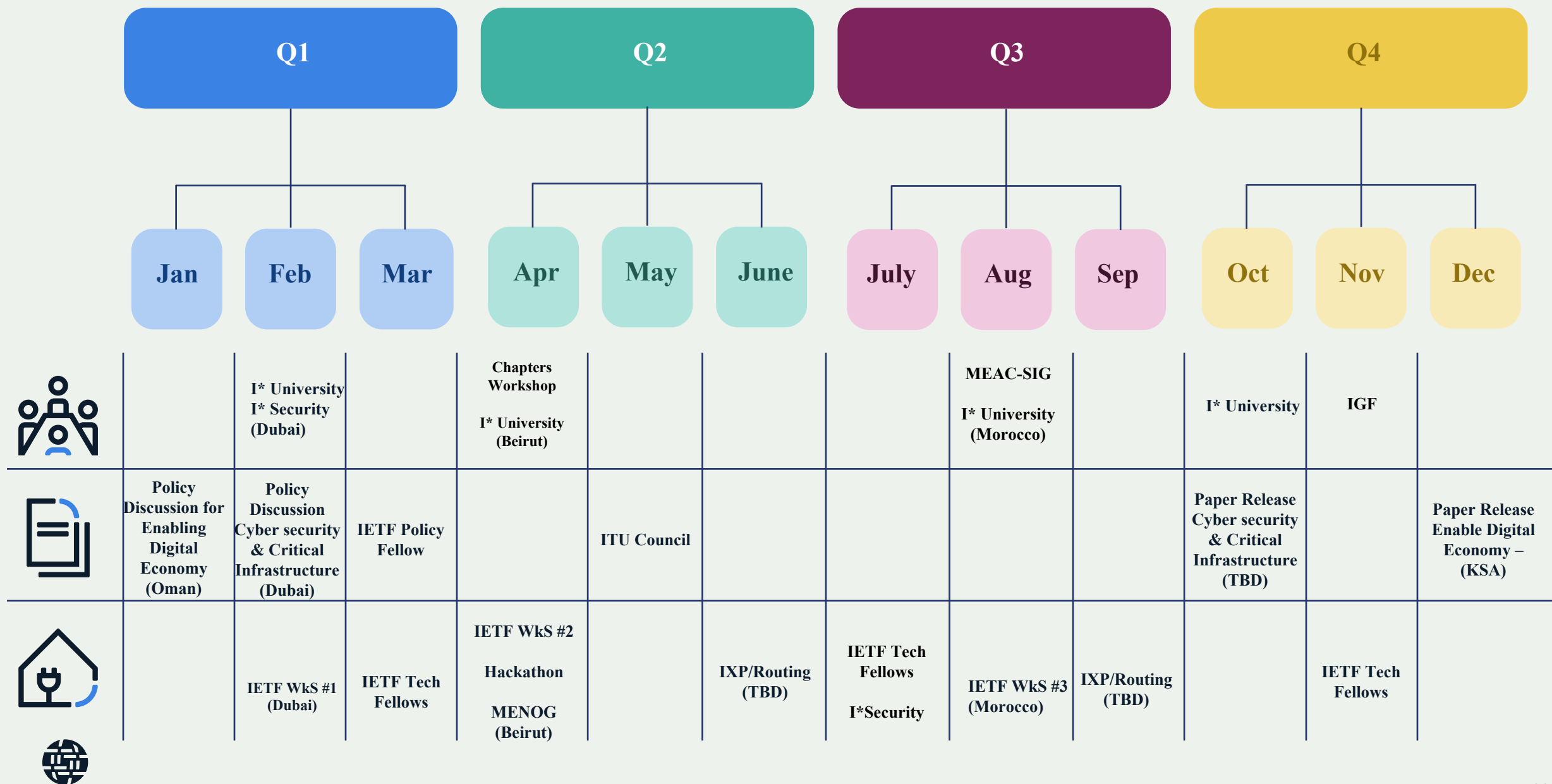


# ME 2019 Plan of Activities

Community, Technology, Policy







# Summary Take Aways

- Difficult Region
- Strategy
- Collaboration



Do.  
Or do not.

There is no try.

Yoda, Jedi Master



# Thank you.

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