



Towards a Globally Coherent OIC Halal Ecosystem

**Positioning SMIC as Scheme Owner
and IFHAB as MRA Platform**

Çağrı Cankurtaran
SMIC General Secretariat
cagri.cankurtaran@smiic.org

SMIIC at a Glance: The Normative Center



SMIIC

Institutional Identity

A treaty-based, intergovernmental organization affiliated with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), established in 2010 with headquarters in Istanbul, Türkiye. Holds recognized international diplomatic status.

Core Mandate

To achieve uniformity in standard-setting, metrology, and accreditation across Member States.

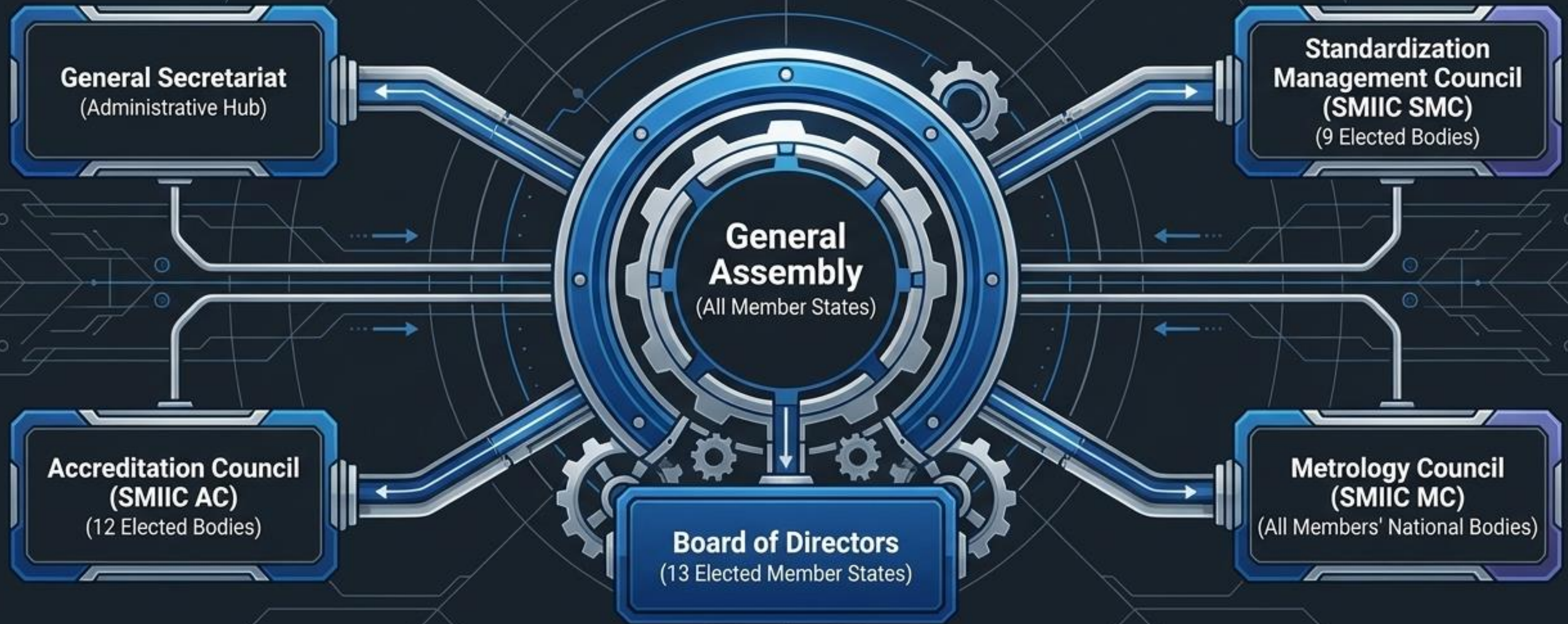
Relevance to Ecosystem

Serves as the definitive standard-setter (developing OIC/SMIIC texts) and the central structural anchor for the global halal quality infrastructure.

Note: SMIIC is not a conformity assessment body.



A Comprehensive Institutional Architecture



A robust framework designed to carry out activities aimed at establishing sound standardization, metrology, and accreditation systems across the whole world.

A Booming Market Bottlenecked by Artificial Borders

The global halal market is expanding rapidly, yet OIC Member States face severe fragmentation.



Structural Section

Over a dozen major national and regional standards currently govern the market (e.g., MS 1500, HAS 23000, MUIS, UAE/GSO).



Structural Convergence

Substantial commonalities exist (rooted in Qur'an and Sunnah), but material differences in technical applications (animal stunning, enzymes, technical alcohol) restrict industrial growth.



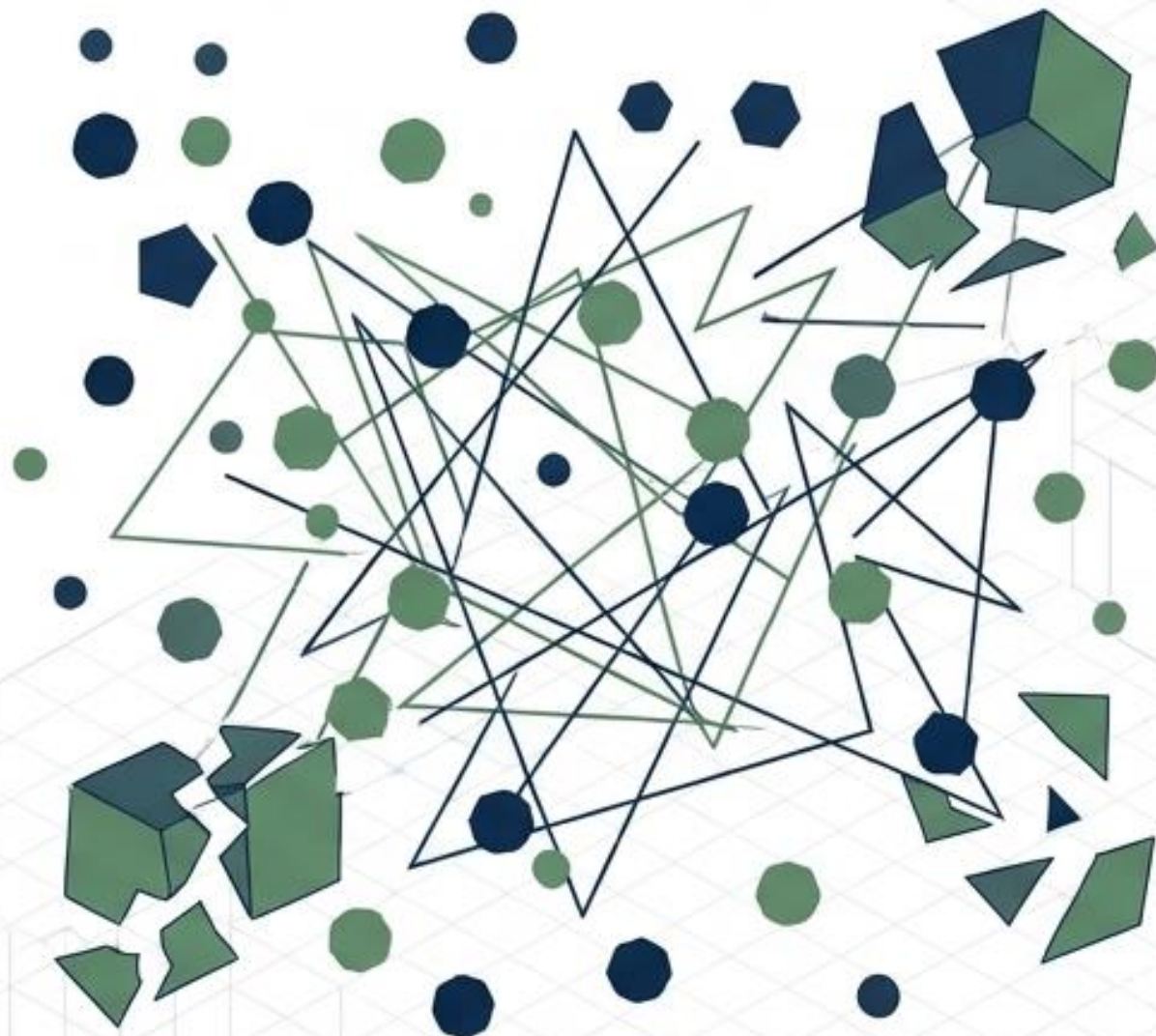
Structural Maze

Result: An uncontrolled proliferation of competing Halal Certification Bodies (HCBs) and Halal Accreditation Bodies (HABs).



The Challenge: A Fragmented Global Halal Architecture

Scattered Nodes



The Friction Points

Multiplicity of Standards

Dozens of national standards exist with material differences in areas like animal stunning, use of certain enzymes, non-Muslim slaughterers, and labeling.

Overlapping Accreditation

Halal Certification Bodies (HCBs) are forced to seek multiple recognitions from different accreditation bodies, increasing costs and complexity.

Trade Barriers

Discriminatory or opaque recognition of foreign HCBs creates non-tariff barriers, risking inconsistency with WTO TBT principles.

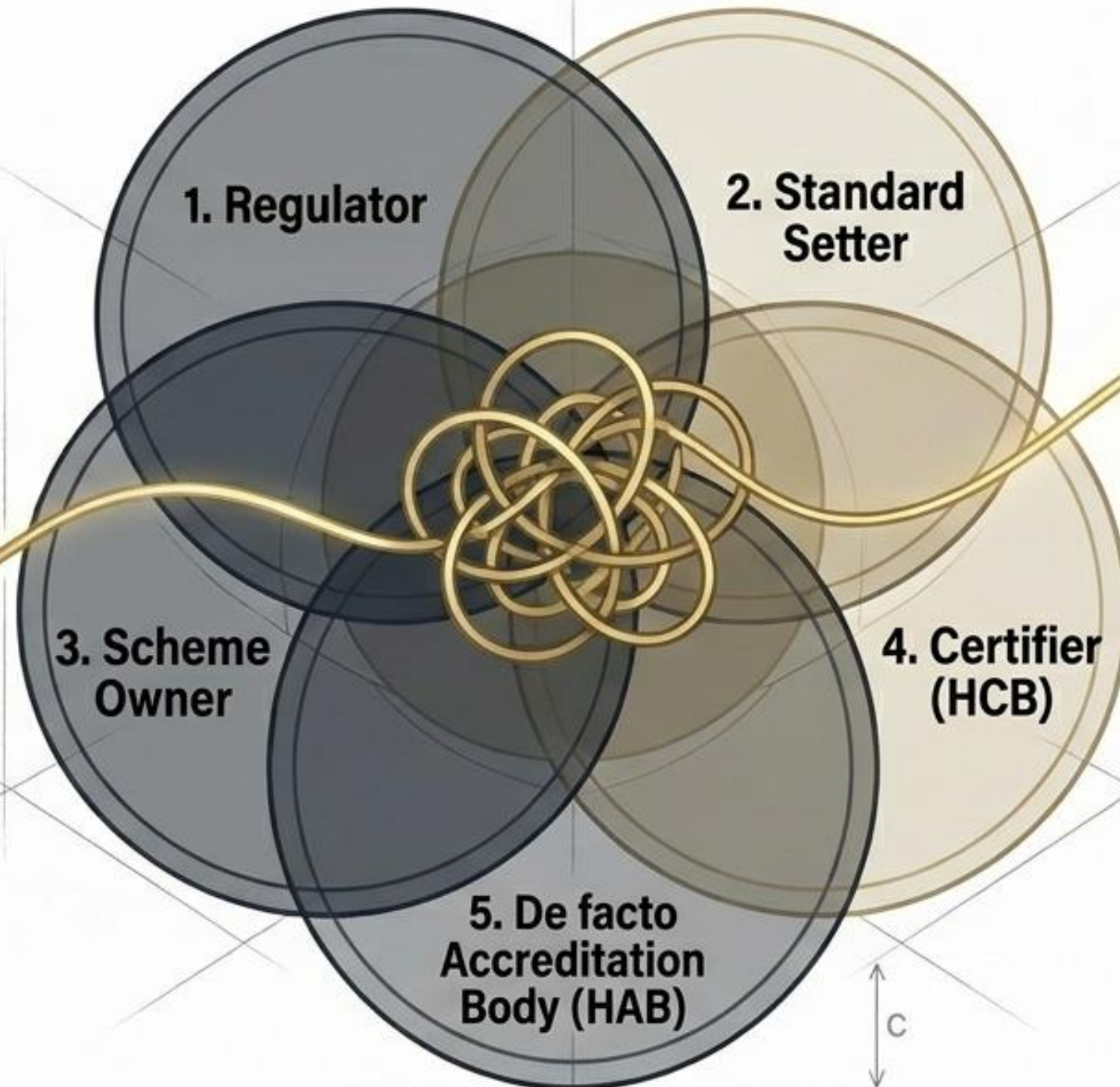
Consumer Confusion

An uncontrolled proliferation of varying local logos weakens consumer trust and complicates supply chains.

When Roles Blur: The Anatomy of Systemic Inefficiency

The Core Problem:

Current practice in many OIC Member States frequently blurs foundational conformity assessment roles. Single national entities attempt to perform five distinct functions simultaneously.



The Consequence:

This concentration of functions weakens global mutual recognition, creates opaque market access conditions, and diverges heavily from established international good practice.

The Triple Cost of a Fragmented Architecture



Economic Stagnation (SMEs)

- Lack of harmonization forces exporters into dual-certification burdens.
- Competing accreditation arrangements exponentially increase compliance costs and delay market entry.



Trade & Legal Risks (WTO TBT)

- Discriminatory or opaque recognition of foreign HCBs acts as an illegal non-tariff barrier.
- Politically driven preferences for certain national schemes risk violating World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) principles.



The Trust Deficit (Consumers)

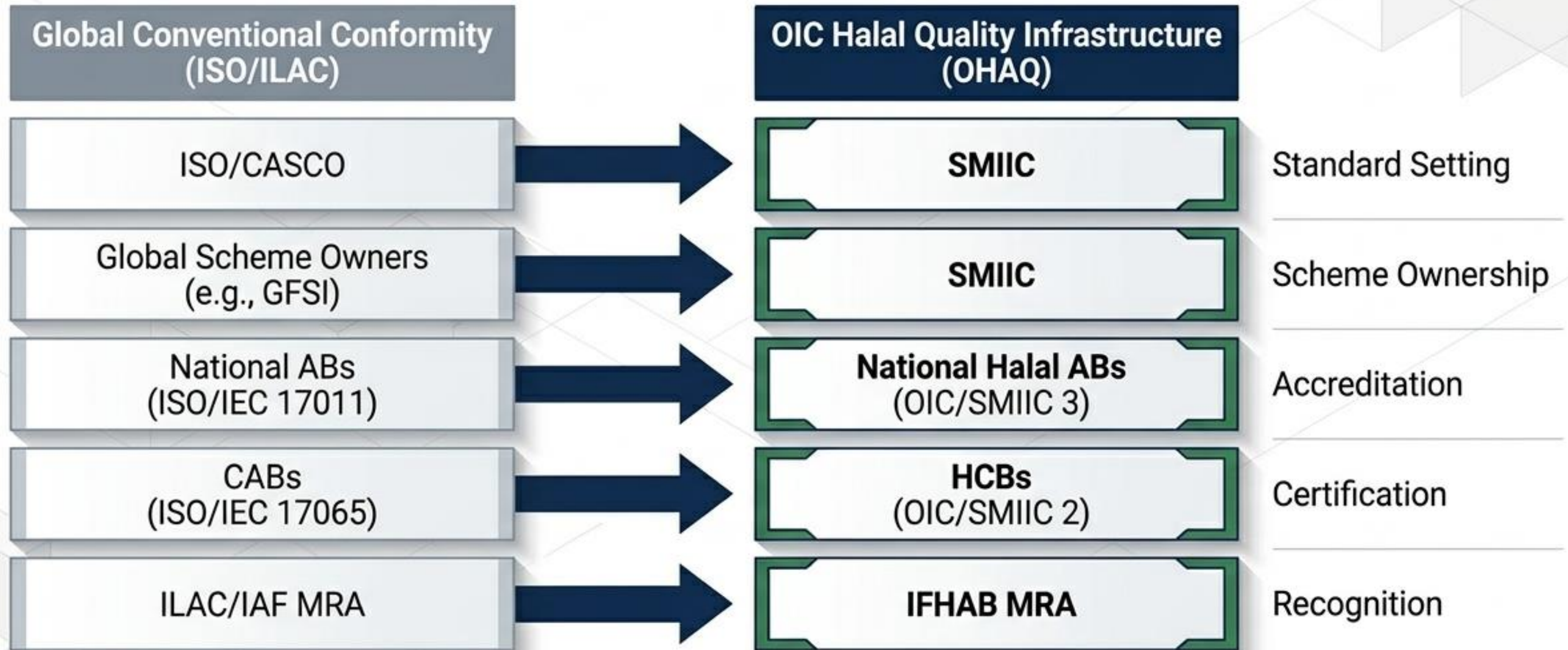
- Limited external oversight creates vulnerabilities for halal crime.
- Documented rises in forged halal certificates and the misuse of expired local logos erode the fundamental trust of the Muslim consumer (Abdallah, 2021).

Adapting Global Trade Norms to the Halal Sector

	Conventional Global Trade	Current Halal Sector
Standards Development	ISO, IEC (Single normative documents).	Dozens of diverging national/regional standards.
Scheme Ownership	Clear IP and rule owners (Sector regulators).	Ambiguous, bundled roles within single national entities.
Accreditation Framework	ILAC/IAF peer-evaluated Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs).	Selective, localized, and overlapping national recognitions.
Assessment Criteria	ISO/IEC 17011, 17065.	Proprietary checklists lacking global peer review.

The halal ecosystem does not need to reinvent global trade mechanics; it simply needs to **adapt** established ISO/CASCO structural norms.

Global Alignment & Best Practices



The OHAQ framework is purposefully designed ...to adapt the established international practices while seamlessly embedding Islamic requirements, ensuring full compatibility with WTO TBT expectations.

The Goal: A Unified and Harmonized Global Reach

Core Insight:

The multi-trillion-dollar global halal ecosystem cannot scale on a patchwork of proprietary national standards.



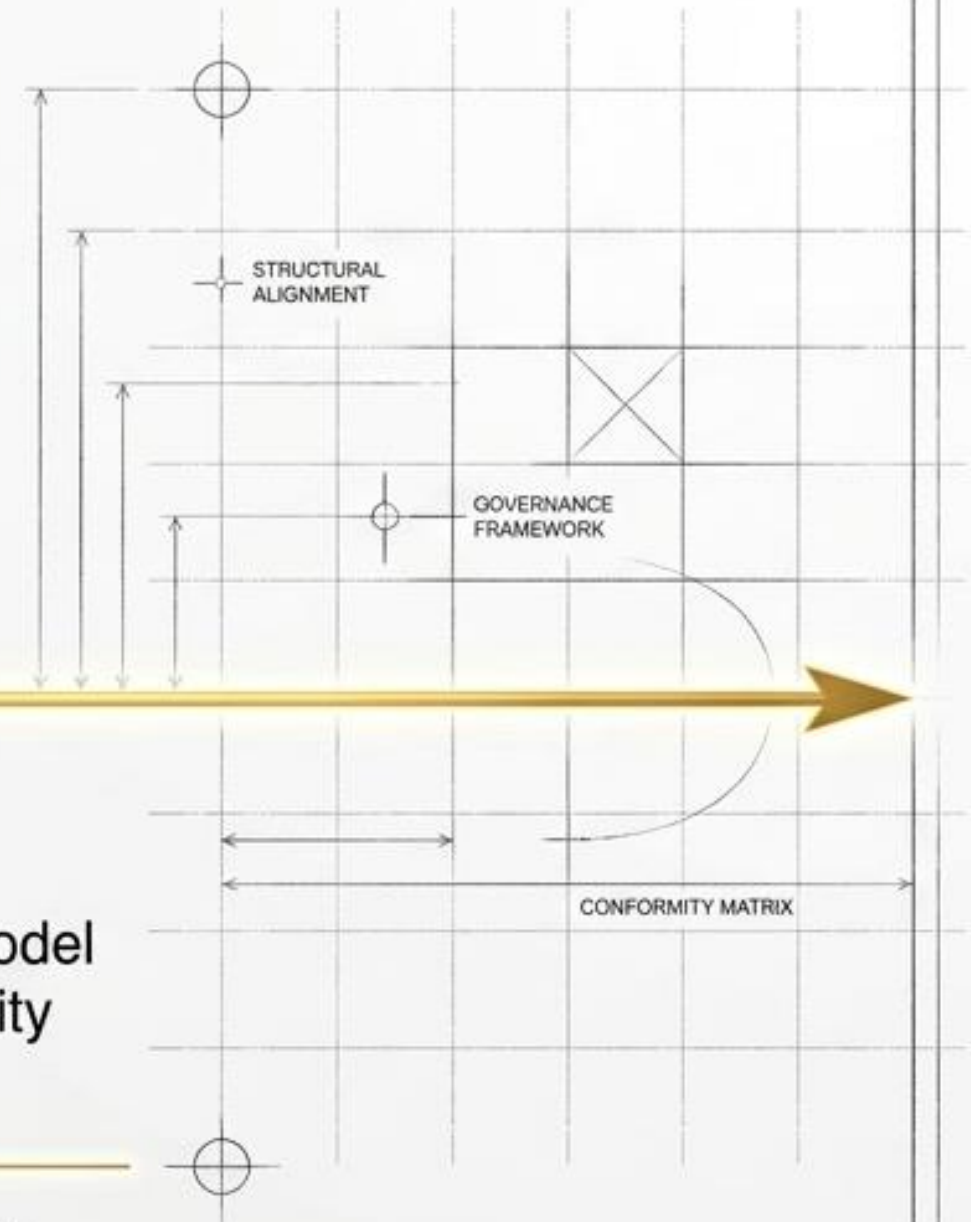
The Mandate:

The overarching goal is to deploy a single, harmonized approach designed specifically to serve the whole world. By removing overlapping accreditation requirements and aligning certification practices, we can eliminate non-tariff trade barriers, protect global consumers, and facilitate seamless international trade.

The OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ)

Introducing OHAQ—a conceptual and institutional model that aligns OIC halal governance with global conformity assessment practices.

The Mission: To reduce technical barriers to trade, protect Muslim consumers, and enhance the credibility of the OIC as the definitive global reference for halal, utilizing SMIC and IFHAB as the structural anchors.



OHAQ at a Glance: The Institutional Blueprint

The Purpose

The **OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ)** is a conceptual and institutional model designed to align OIC halal governance with established **global conformity assessment practices**.

The Global Bridge

IFHAB serves as the designated **Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA)** platform to ensure certificates are trusted globally without duplicate testing.

IFHAB

The Ecosystem Interlock

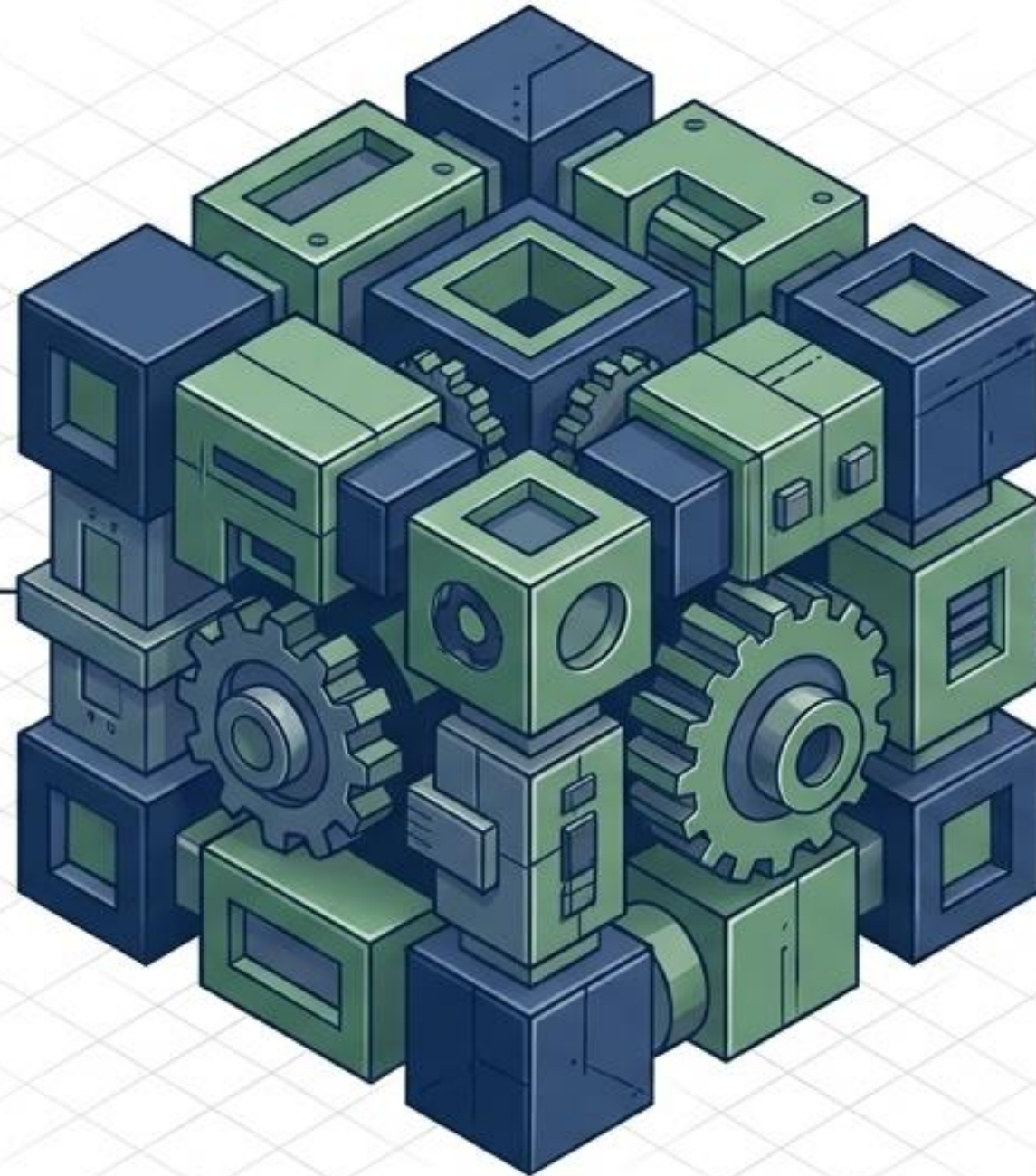
OHAQ engineers a unified system by structurally interlocking **SMIC Standards** (the rules), **National Accreditation** (the gatekeepers), **Halal Certification** (the operators), and **Digital Trust** (the IT verification registry).

The Solution: OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ)

What is OHAQ?

OHAQ is the definitive structure describing the conformity assessment and accreditation of halal-related activities.

It establishes rules to harmonize procedures globally, achieve full mutual recognition, recognition, and issue a unified halal mark based entirely on OIC/SMIIC standards.

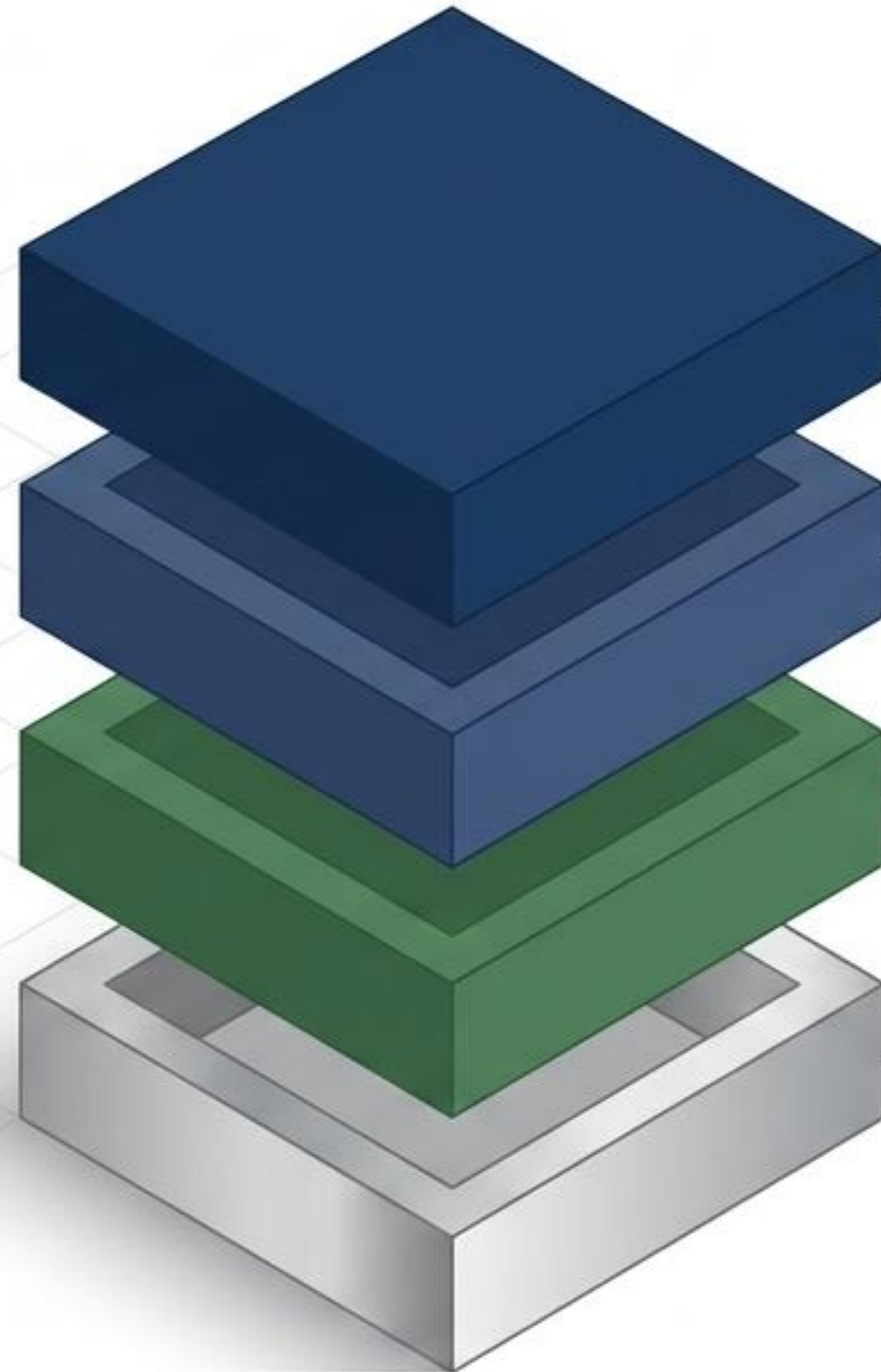


1. A Single Normative Center (OIC/SMIIC Standards).

2. Strict Separation of Functions (Standards vs. Certification vs. Accreditation vs. Recognition).

3. Transparency & Traceability (IT-secured global registry).

The OHAQ Layered Structure



Designated Structure (Mutual Recognition & Scheme): IFHAB operates the MLA/MRA & Peer evaluation in accordance with OIC/SMIIC standards. SMIIC acts as standard-setter and scheme owner.

Accreditation: Authorized National Halal Accreditation Bodies (ABs).

Conformity Assessment: Accredited Halal Conformity Assessment Bodies (HCBs). Conducting audits and certification.

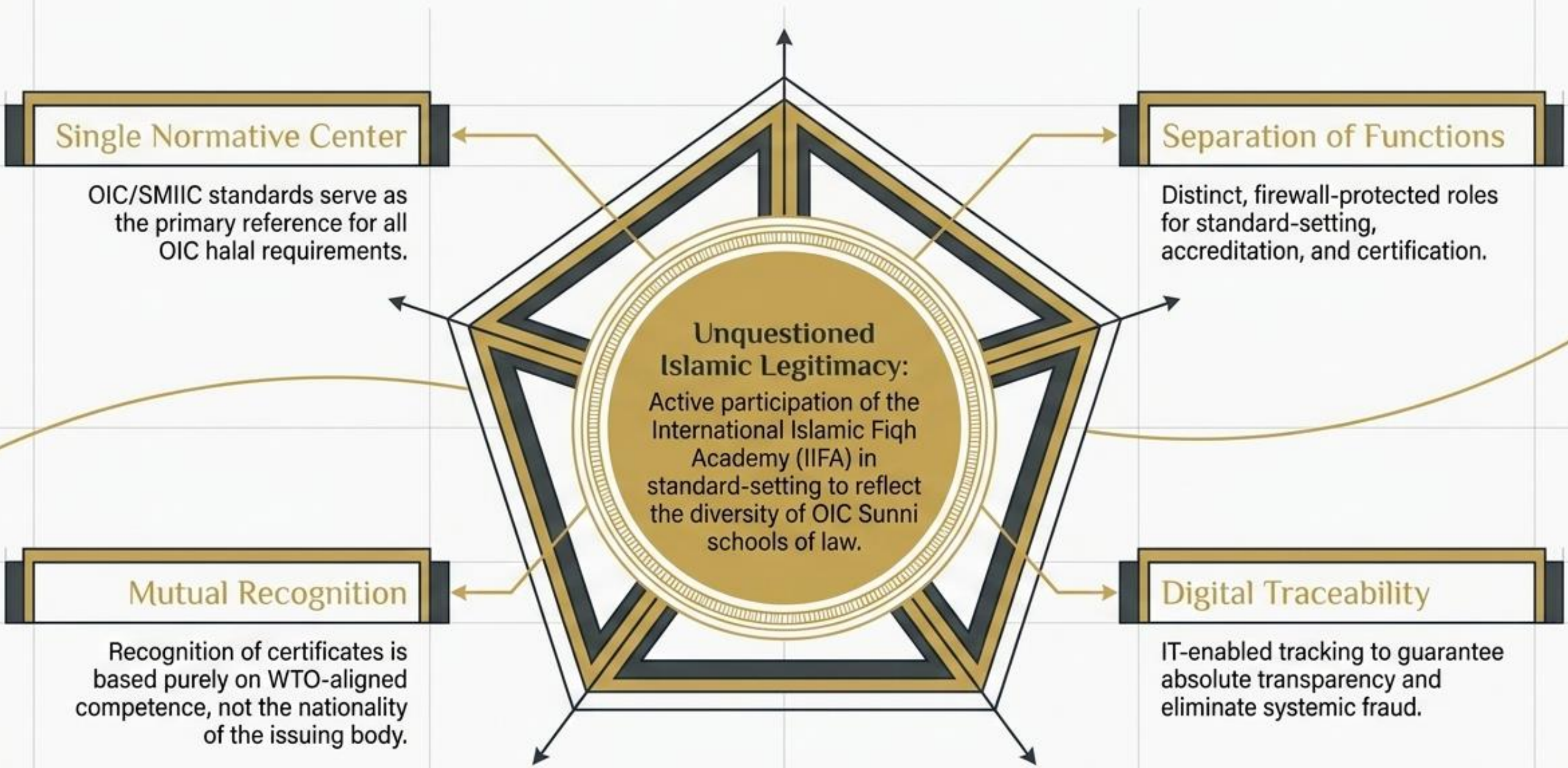
Products & Services: Producers, Manufacturers, Retailers, Distributors, and Service Providers ensuring halal conformance in production.

The Strategic Imperative: Separation of Functions

By separating these four functions, the OHAQ model eliminates the vulnerabilities of the current ecosystem where single entities act as standard setter, regulator, and certifier simultaneously.



Five Pillars of a Coherent Ecosystem

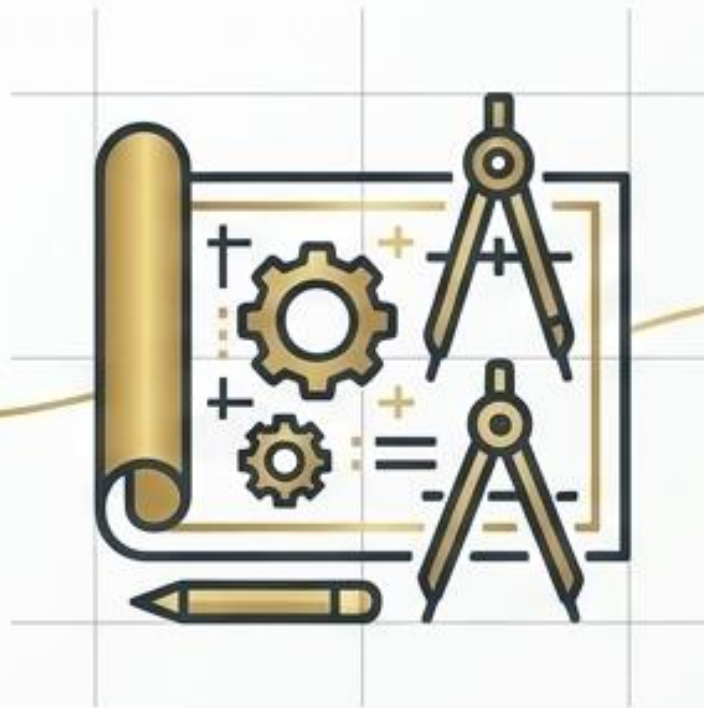


Ecosystem Architecture: Current vs. Future State

	Current State (Fragmented)	OHAQ Future State (Coherent)
Standard Setting	Fragmented, multi-standard environment.	Unified OIC/SMIIC standards globally aligned with ISO/Codex .
Accreditation Oversight	Overlapping, redundant, and sometimes competing bodies.	Designated National ABs acting with mutual equivalence .
Recognition Mechanism	Limited, bilateral, or selective recognition.	IFHAB Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) .
Trade Impact	High transaction costs, dual certification burdens, non-tariff barriers.	Certify once, recognized globally. Barrier-free trade.
Market Trust	Confusing proliferation of local logos and proprietary marks.	Singular, unique, IT-secured OIC/SMIIC halal scheme logo.

Separation of Powers: SMIC as Standard Setter and Scheme Owner

Standard-Setter



- Develops and maintains the family of OIC/SMIIC standards (e.g., OIC/SMIIC 1 for Food, OIC/SMIIC 2 for Certification Bodies, OIC/SMIIC 3 for Accreditation Bodies).
- Mirrors mainstream ISO/IEC and Codex texts while embedding IIFA-guided Islamic requirements.

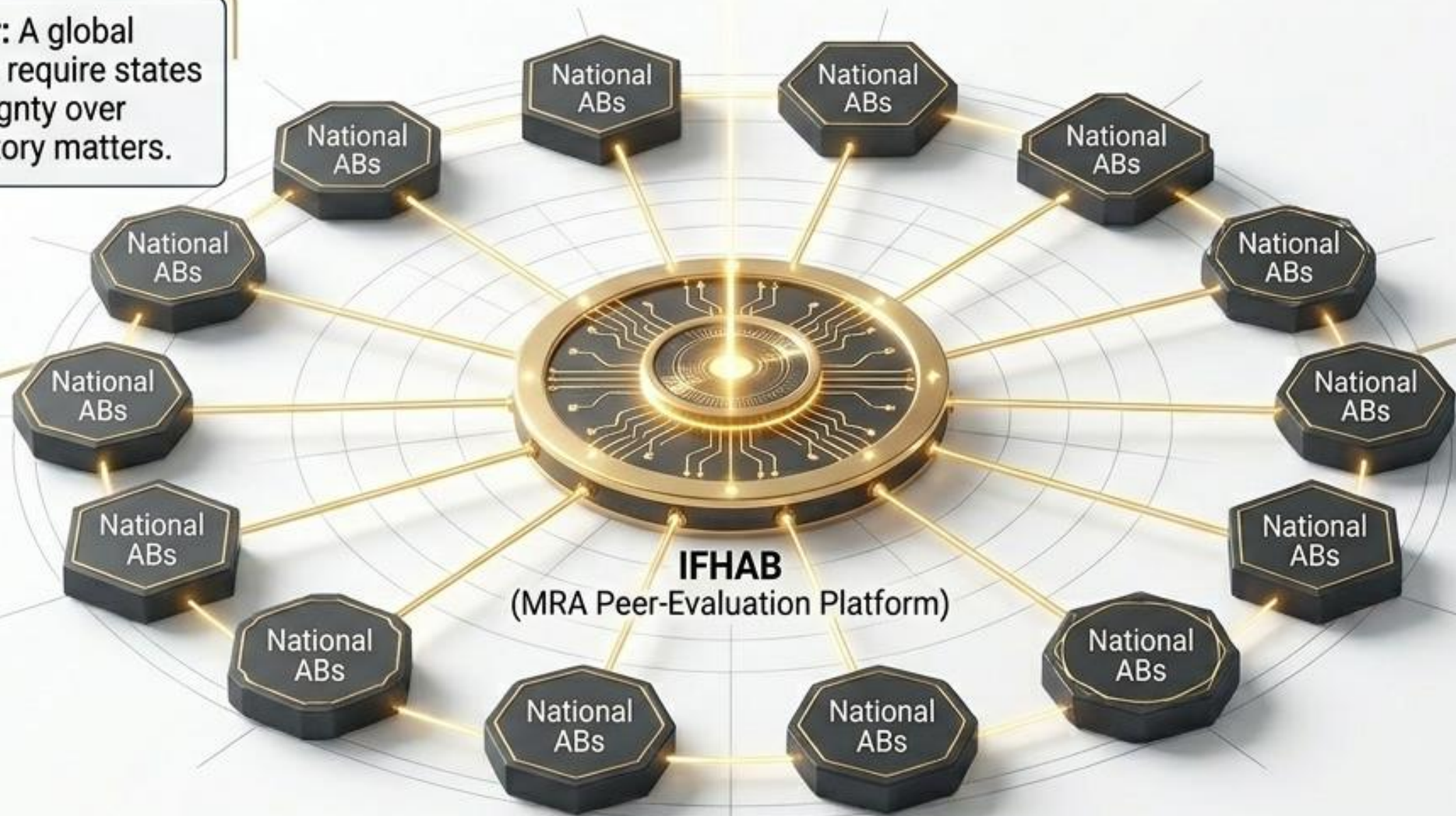
Scheme Owner



- Governs the intellectual property (IP) of the unique OIC/SMIIC Halal Certification Schemes.
- Maintains a global registry of recognized HCBs.
- Defends the scheme and marks across international platforms (ISO, Codex, WTO).

Preserving Sovereignty Through Multilateral Recognition (IFHAB)

Addressing the Fear: A global ecosystem does not require states to surrender sovereignty over religious and regulatory matters.



States retain complete control over domestic law and voluntarily designate their own National Accreditation Bodies (using OIC/SMIIC 3).

IFHAB acts purely as an evaluation platform (similar to ILAC/IAF).

By participating in the IFHAB MRA, accreditation decisions are peer-evaluated and subsequently recognized across all participating economies without coercion.

Securing Trust: The Unified Logo and Digital Traceability



One Unified Mark: A single OIC/SMIIC halal logo owned by SMIIC and used globally by authorized HCBs.

Central IT Registry: Every issued certificate is linked to a central IT platform operated by SMIIC.

Real-Time Verification: Regulators, businesses, and consumers can verify certificate validity instantly, potentially utilizing blockchain for immutable recording to eliminate halal crime.

The Problem Addressed: Confusion from numerous logos and recurring instances of falsified/expired marks.

Defending Islamic Measures Under WTO Trade Regimes

Sharia-based Halal Measures (Public Morals/Consumer Preference)



Global Trade Law (Non-Discrimination & Transparency)

Sharia-based measures are justifiable under WTO SPS/TBT agreements if they are non-discriminatory and transparent.

How OHAQ Protects Member States

Replaces opaque, politically driven national recognition with objective, competence-based criteria (OIC/SMIIC standards).

Reduces the risk that halal regulations are categorized as unnecessary technical barriers to trade.

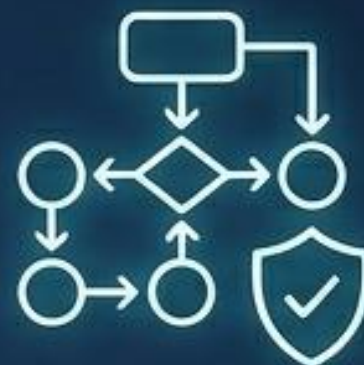
Acts as a vehicle for "halal diplomacy," bridging Islamic norms with the secular global trade regime.

Layer 1: SMIIIC as the Scheme Owner



Standard Setting

Continually developing and updating normative documents (OIC/SMIIIC 1, 2, 3) aligned with ISO/Codex while embedding Islamic requirements.



Scheme Governance

Establishing formal certification schemes (e.g., Food, Cosmetics) defining scope, rules, and levels of assurance.



Intellectual Property

Governing the IP of the unique OIC/SMIIIC halal mark globally to prevent fraud and misuse.



Global Registry

Maintaining an IT-secured registry of recognized HCBs authorized to use the unified scheme.

Layers 2 & 3: IFHAB and National Accreditation

Layer 2

National ABs

- Each state designates its own national accreditation body.
- Operates in accordance with OIC/SMIIC 3.
- Maintains state sovereignty over domestic accreditation while embedding into a harmonized global framework.



Building Trust Across Borders



IFHAB MRA

- A cooperation of national halal accreditation bodies.
- Coordinates peer evaluations of ABs.
- Administers the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA).
- Ensures recognition is based on objective competence, not the nationality of the issuing body.

Layer 4: HCBs and the Market Interface

Empowering competent public and private certifiers to operate under a unified global trust framework.



1 Implementation

Any competent body can act as an HCB by implementing OIC/SMIC 2 combined with ISO/IEC standards.



2 Accreditation

Must be accredited by an MRA-signatory National AB to ensure strict compliance.



3 Operation

Operates under a contractual agreement with SMIC to use the unified logo and central IT traceability system.

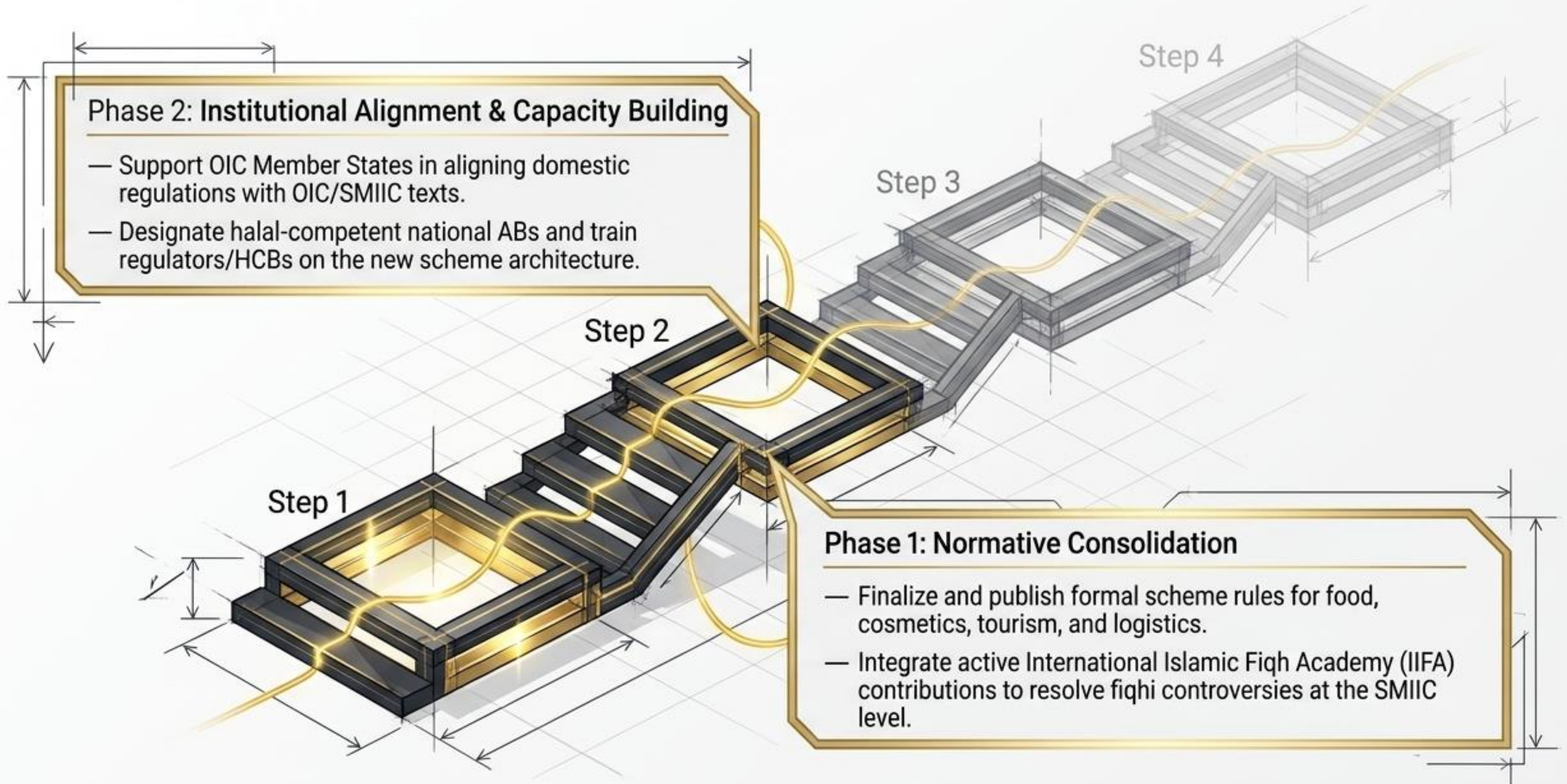
Result: Manufacturers certify once, and their certificates are trusted across the whole world.



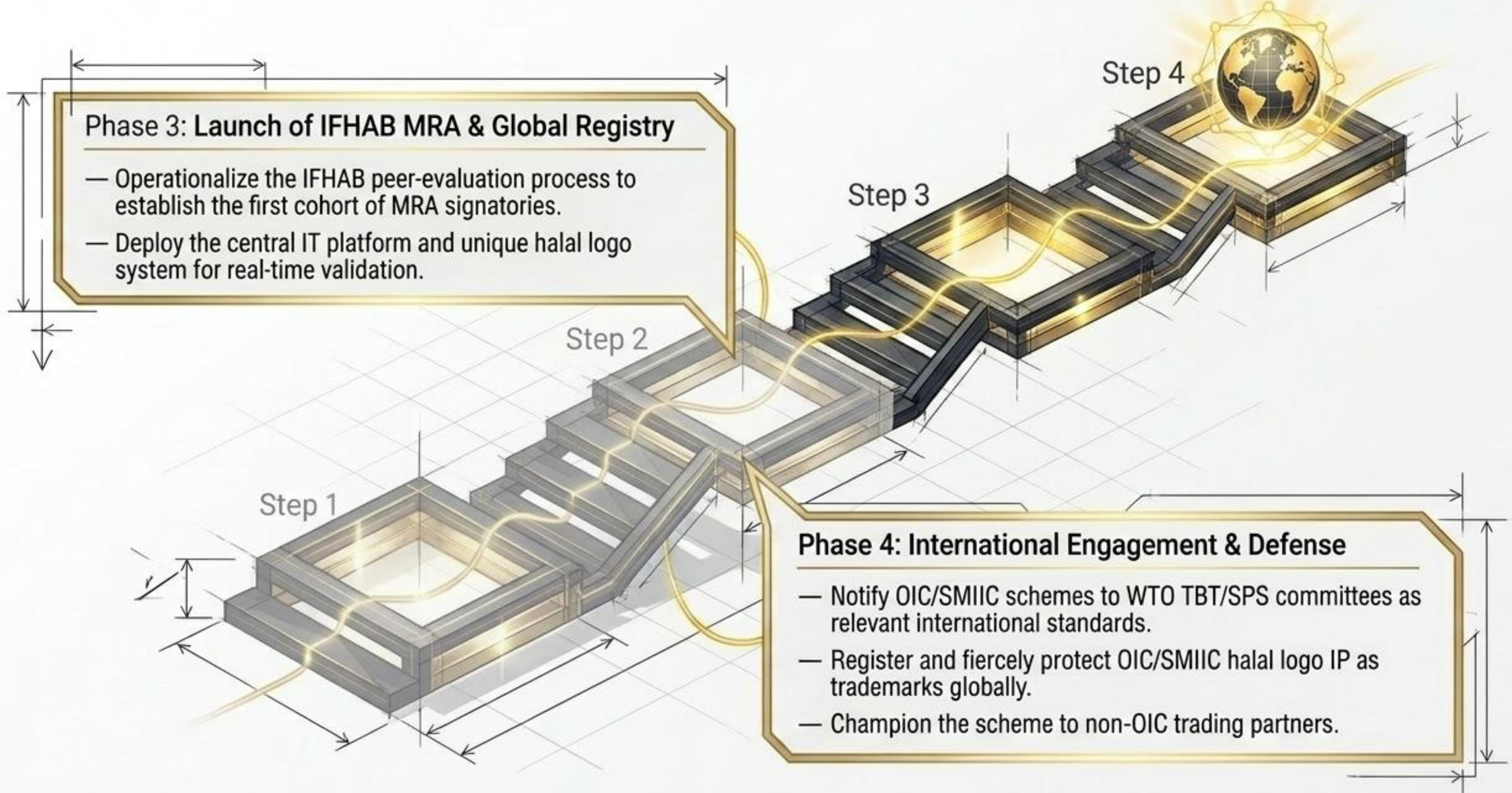
The OHAQ Implementation Roadmap



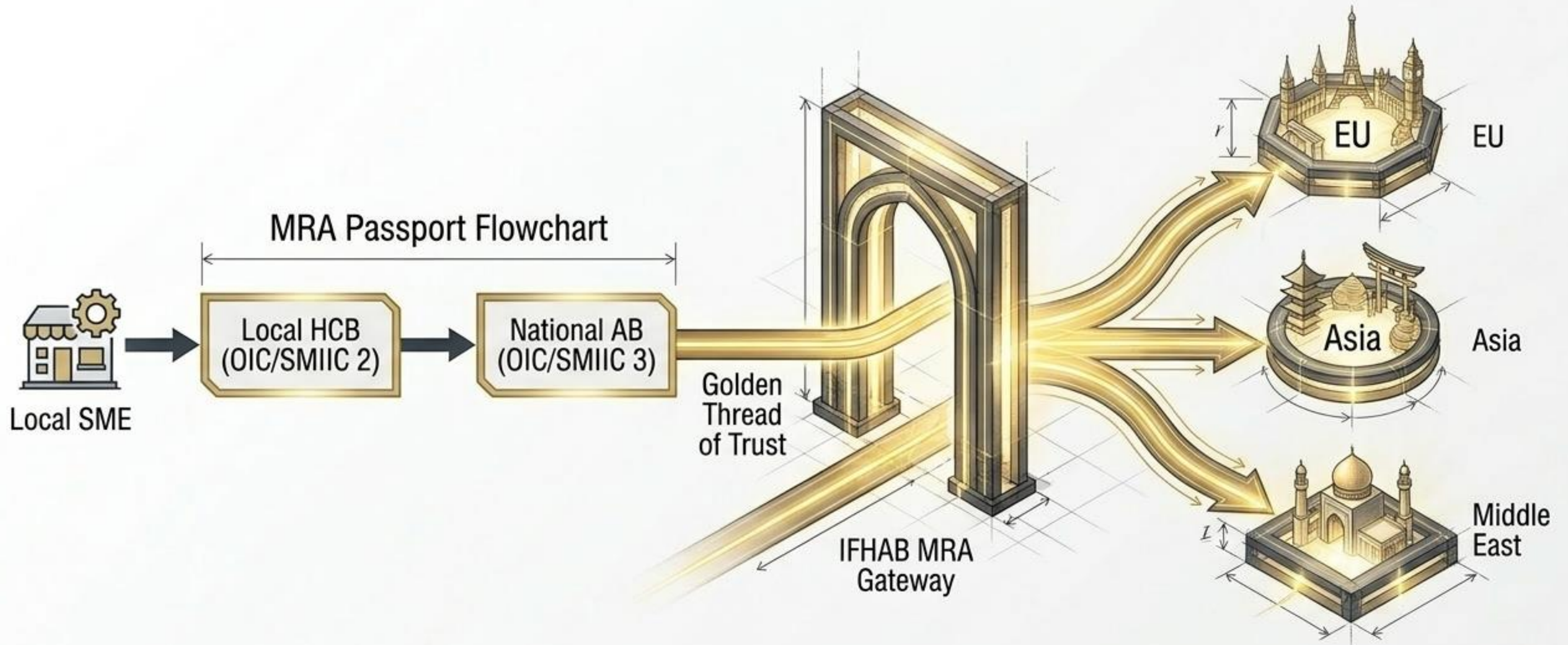
Phased Implementation: Building the Infrastructure (Phases 1-2)



Phased Implementation: Global Deployment (Phases 3-4)



The Ultimate Vision: One Standard, Global Trust



The OHAQ model achieves what fragmented national systems cannot: It preserves sovereign domestic control, deeply strengthens Shariah legitimacy through IIFA, slashes compliance costs for SMEs, and guarantees absolute, digitally secured trust for the global Muslim consumer.



Thank You

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