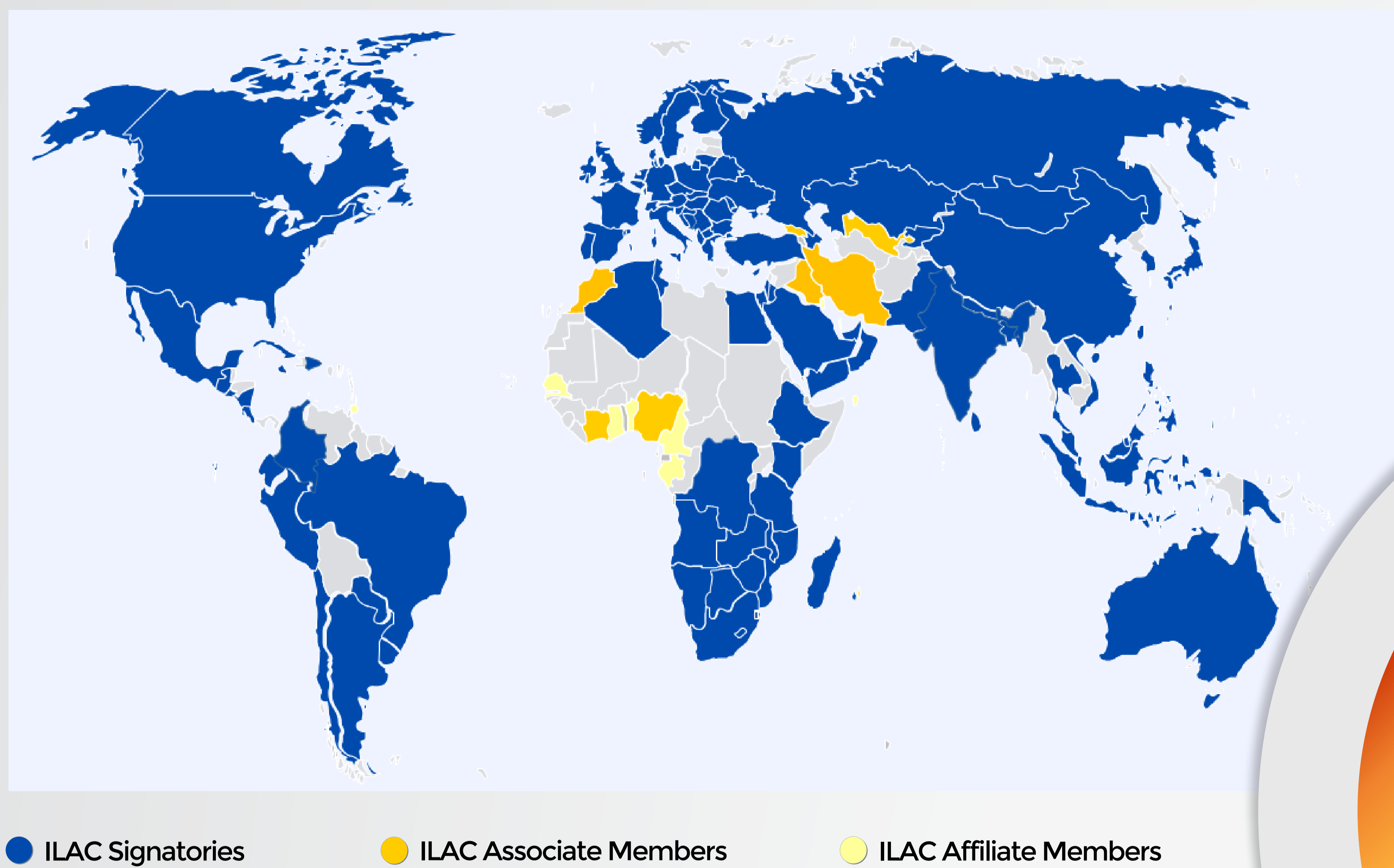
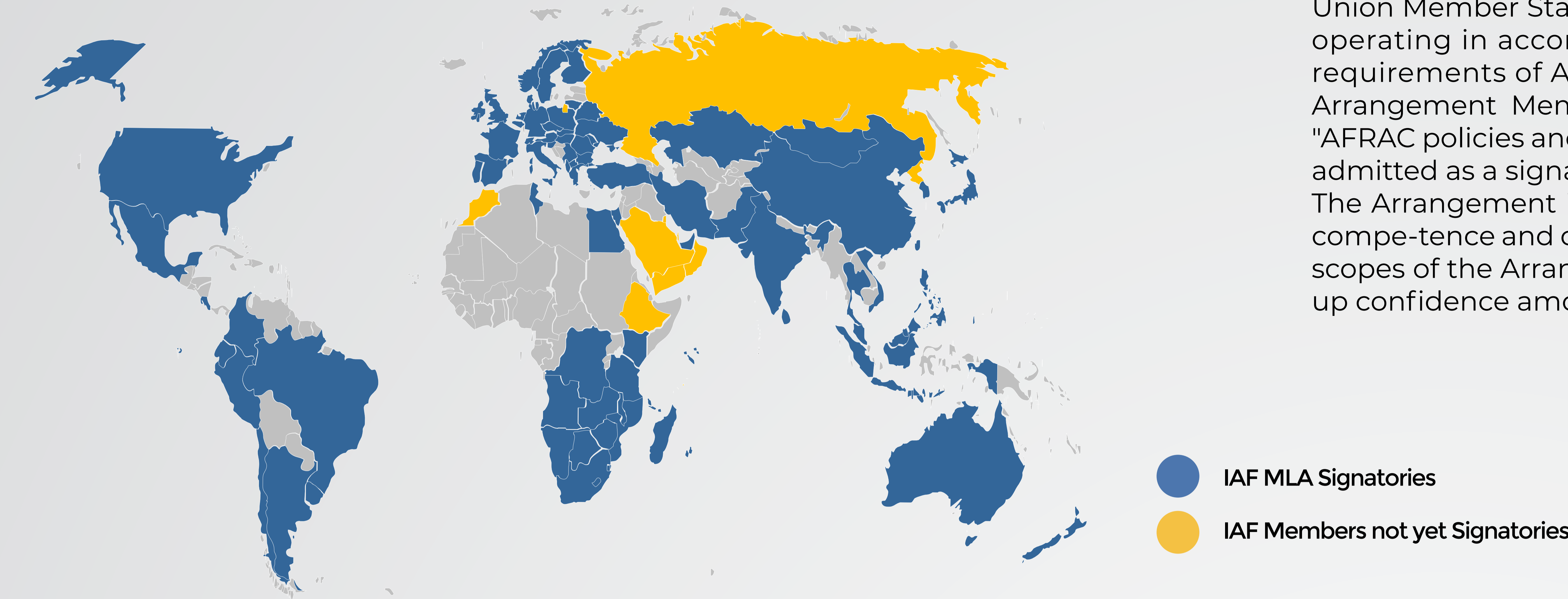


GLOBAL ALIGNMENT AFRAC MRA

The signatories to the AFRAC MRA and their accredited conformity assessment bodies are able to use the ILAC MRA and/or the IAF MLA Marks to show international recognition papers.



AFRAC MRA Scopes Achievements of AFRAC Membership Coverage

AFRAC is accepted as an IAF MLA member for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies. Recognition of the AFRAC MRA to the ILAC MRA is granted for the following accreditation programs:

INTRODUCTION TO AFRAC:

The African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC) is a cooperation of accreditation bodies (national and multi-economy), National Accreditation Focal Points (NAFP), sub-regional accreditation cooperations and stakeholders whose objective is to provide internationally recognised and accepted accreditation support to industry and to contribute to the protection of health and safety of the public and the protection of the environment, thereby facilitating trade and contributing to the improvement of Africa's competitiveness within the global market.

AFRAC MRA

AFRAC Arrangement Members are Accreditation Bodies appointed or recognised by the government of the African Union Member State, legally established and operating in Africa that have been peer reviewed and declared to be operating in accordance with the relevant accreditation standards, mandatory ILAC/IAF documents and the requirements of AFRAC.
Arrangement Members are Accreditation Bodies who have been evaluated in accordance with AFRAC M001 "AFRAC policies and procedures for MRA among Accreditation Bodies", found to comply with the requirements and admitted as a signatory to the AFRAC MRA.
The Arrangement is a means by which the Signatories to the AFRAC MRA can recognise one another's technical competence and confidence in the results of the accredited organisations falling within the Signatory's recognised scopes of the Arrangement. This MRA is an effort to enhance the objective of free trade within Africa and building up confidence among accreditation bodies in the region.

FUNCTIONS OF AFRAC

1. Fostering collaboration among accreditation bodies in Africa and facilitating collaboration between Member States having accreditation bodies and those without;
2. Assisting and supporting the establishment of national or multi-economy accreditation bodies in Africa without compromising AFRAC's impartiality;
3. Creation and maintenance of a system for the recognition of accreditation bodies in Africa within the framework of and consistent with global MRA/MLA international requirements;
4. Coordination and facilitation of liaison with other regional and international organizations concerned with accreditation such as International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) and European Accreditation (EA);
5. Representation of Africa in international accreditation and other quality infrastructure fora;
6. Promotion and expansion of the recognition and acceptance of the MRA in Africa internationally in both the voluntary and regulatory areas; ;
7. Development of and managing training and technical assistance programs for transferring expertise and technical information, sharing of information and activities identified to assist new or developing accreditation programs, among present and potential members;
8. Harmonisation of accreditation practices within Africa in compliance with international requirements;
9. Establishment of an information system such as a database on accreditation bodies, Proficiency Testing (PT) schemes and qualified technical assessors, etc.; and
10. Finding ways to reduce costs incurred by African accreditation bodies associated with obtaining and maintaining full membership to ILAC/IAF, in particular pre-peer and peer evaluation processes.

ROLE OF AFRAC WITHIN THE PAQI

The objectives of the African Accreditation Cooperation are the following:

- To support trade in Africa and enhance global market access by removing technical barriers to trade, and in both the voluntary and regulatory areas;
- To facilitate the recognition of conformity assessment certificates and reports worldwide;
- To improve the competitiveness of African goods and services; and
- To facilitate health and safety of the public and the environment.

