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Increased pressure on international financial centers:
what's new and what's next?

Elise Donovan



Why International Finance Centers Matter

Why IFCs Matter

IFCs sit underneath most cross-border wealth planning

The pressure on these centres shapes:

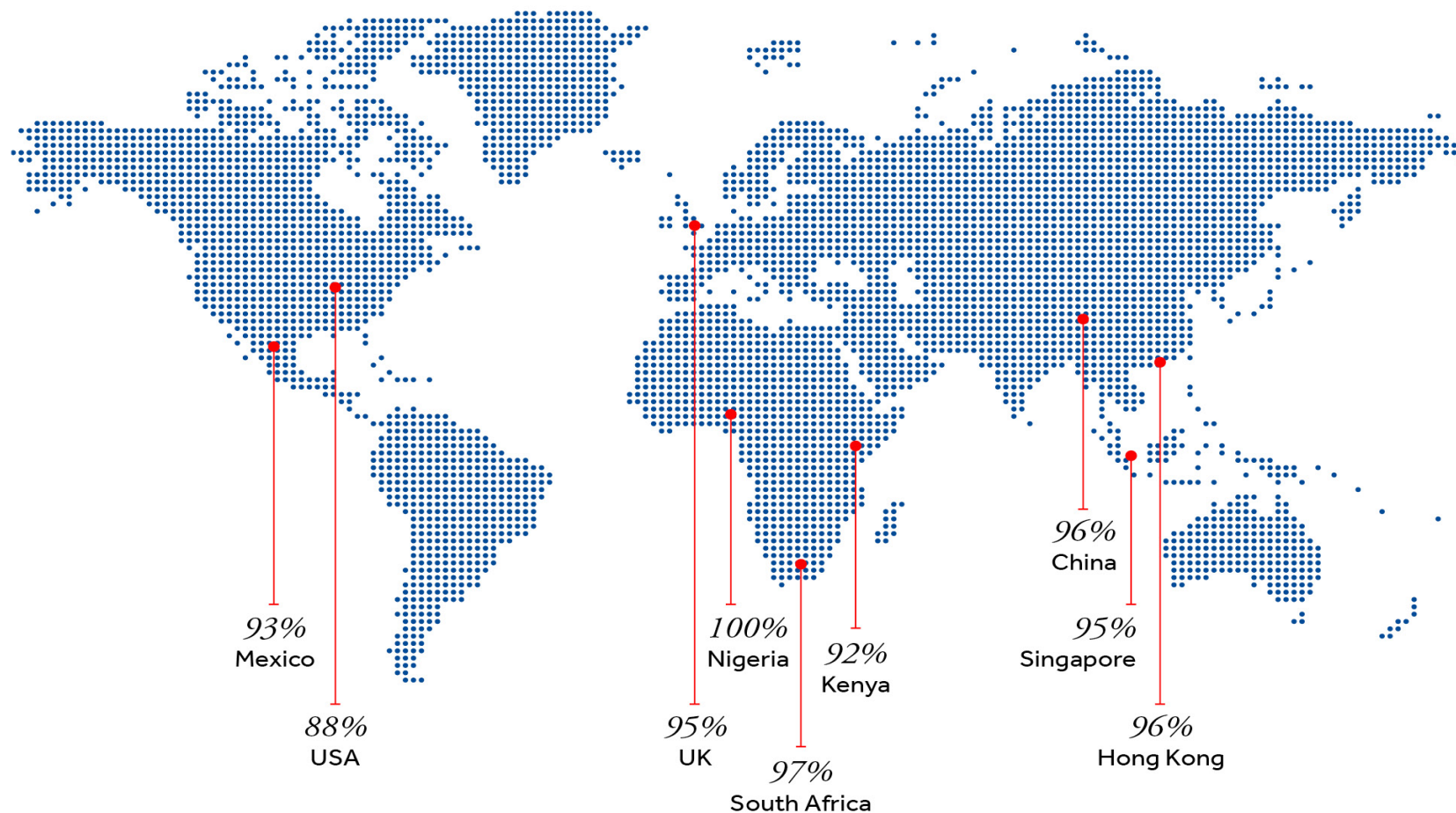
- What structures you can use

- What information is shared

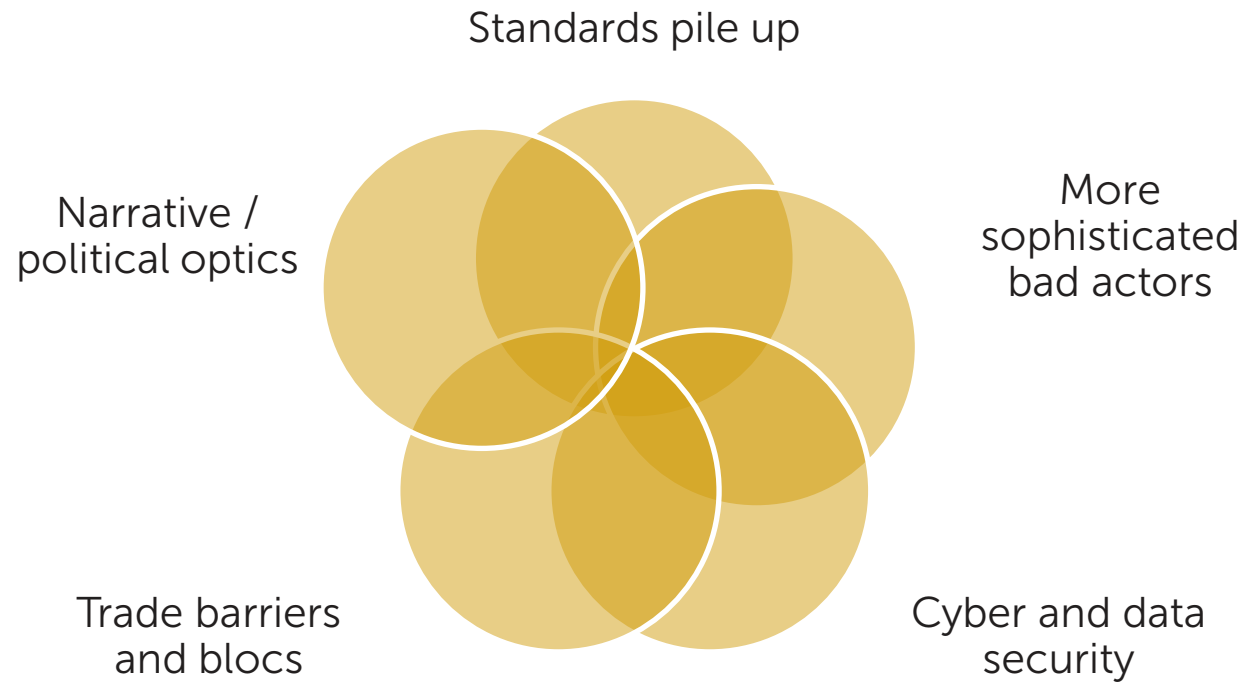
- Which jurisdictions remain viable in the long term

- Today: not “offshore vs onshore” – but credible vs non-credible

Country breakdown on business executives who believe cross-border expansion is crucial or important over the next five years



Multiple Stress Tests, All at Once



The Level Playing Field That Never Quite Levelled

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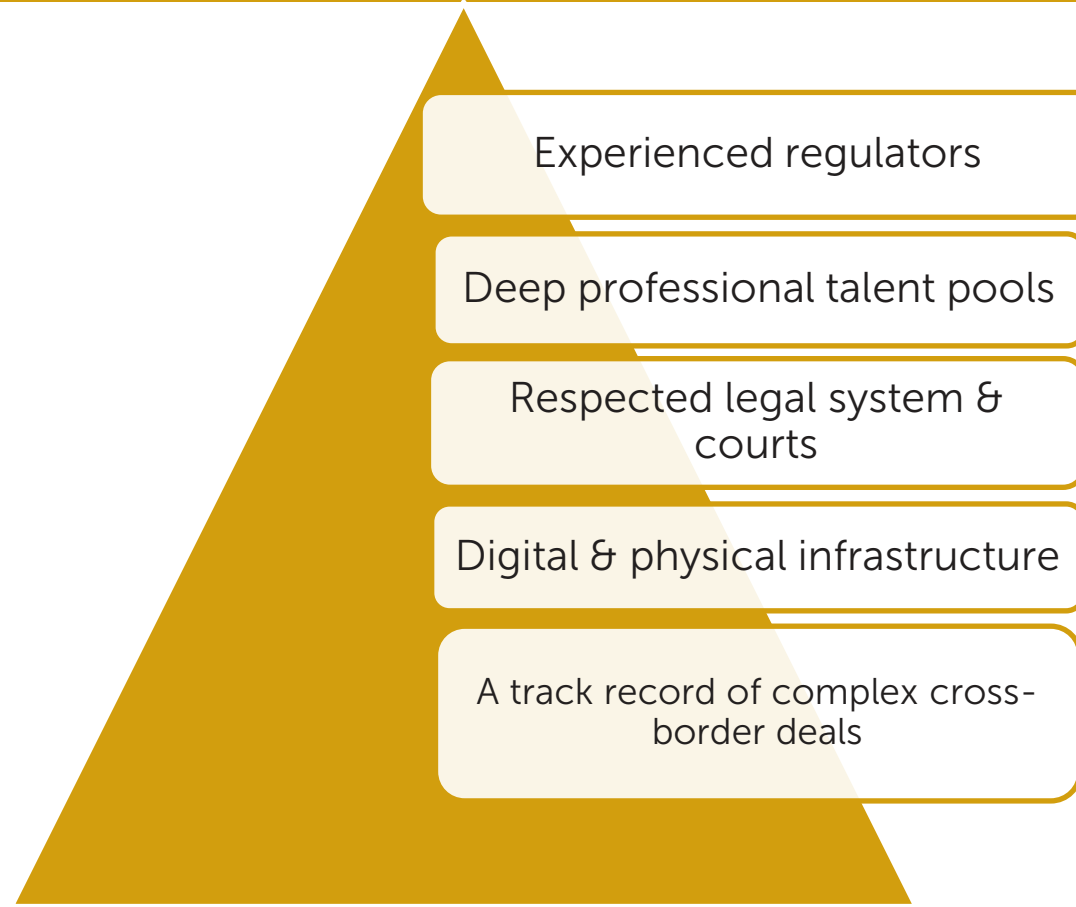


YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT.
THE PLAYING FIELD
IS NOW LEVEL.



P. BYRNES.

You Can Copy Laws. You Can't Copy an Ecosystem Overnight

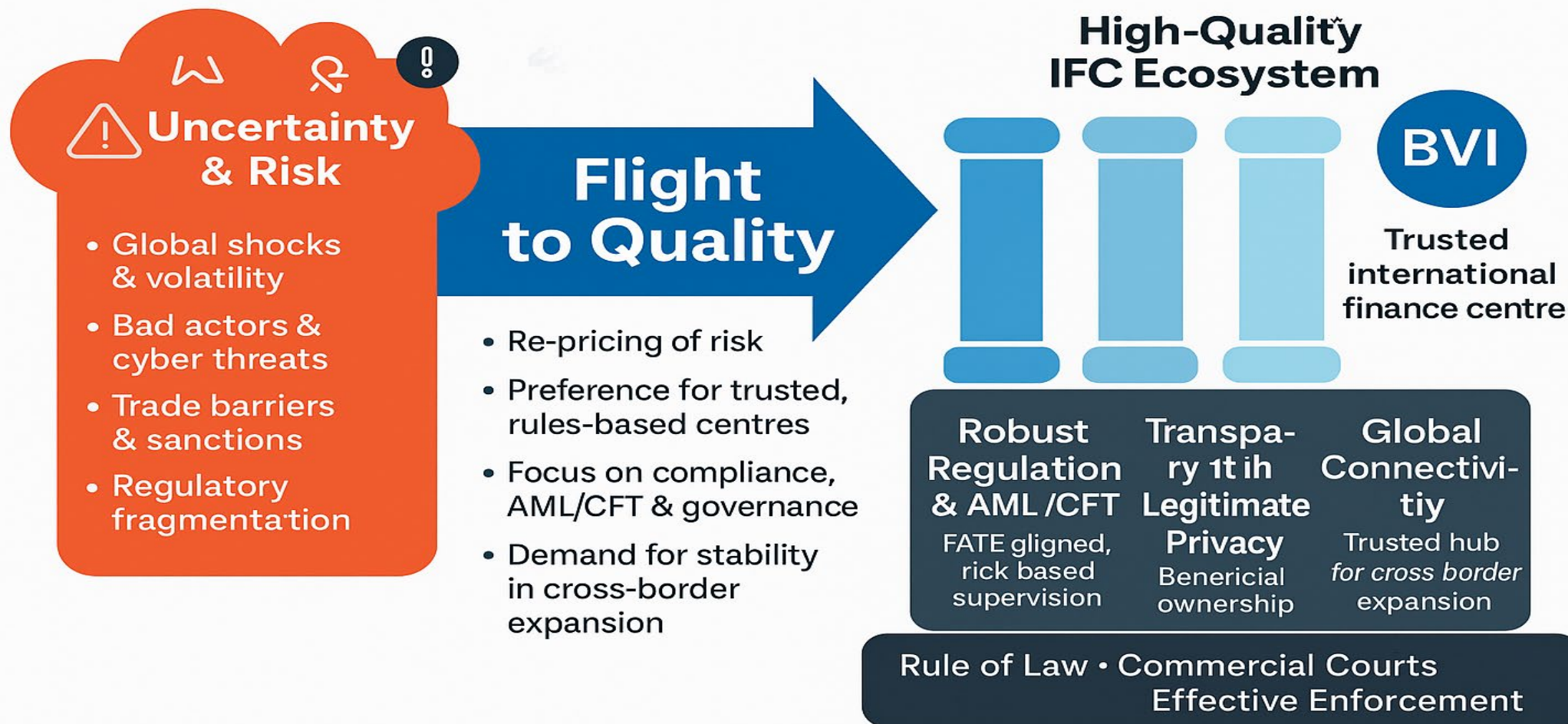


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Where Does All This Lead?

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From Global Uncertainty to a Flight to Quality





COMPLIANCE — COMPETITIVENESS

Implementing standards vs reducing friction for legitimate business

HIGH-QUALITY IFC

Managing Four Balances

Serving multiple blocs vs
staying robust on sanctions
& AML/CFT

Protecting clients vs giving
access to those with legitimate
interest



OPENNESS — GEOPOLITICAL RESI

Digital assets & regtech vs courts, contracts & credible regulators

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What This Means for Advisors and Investors

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When choosing jurisdictions:

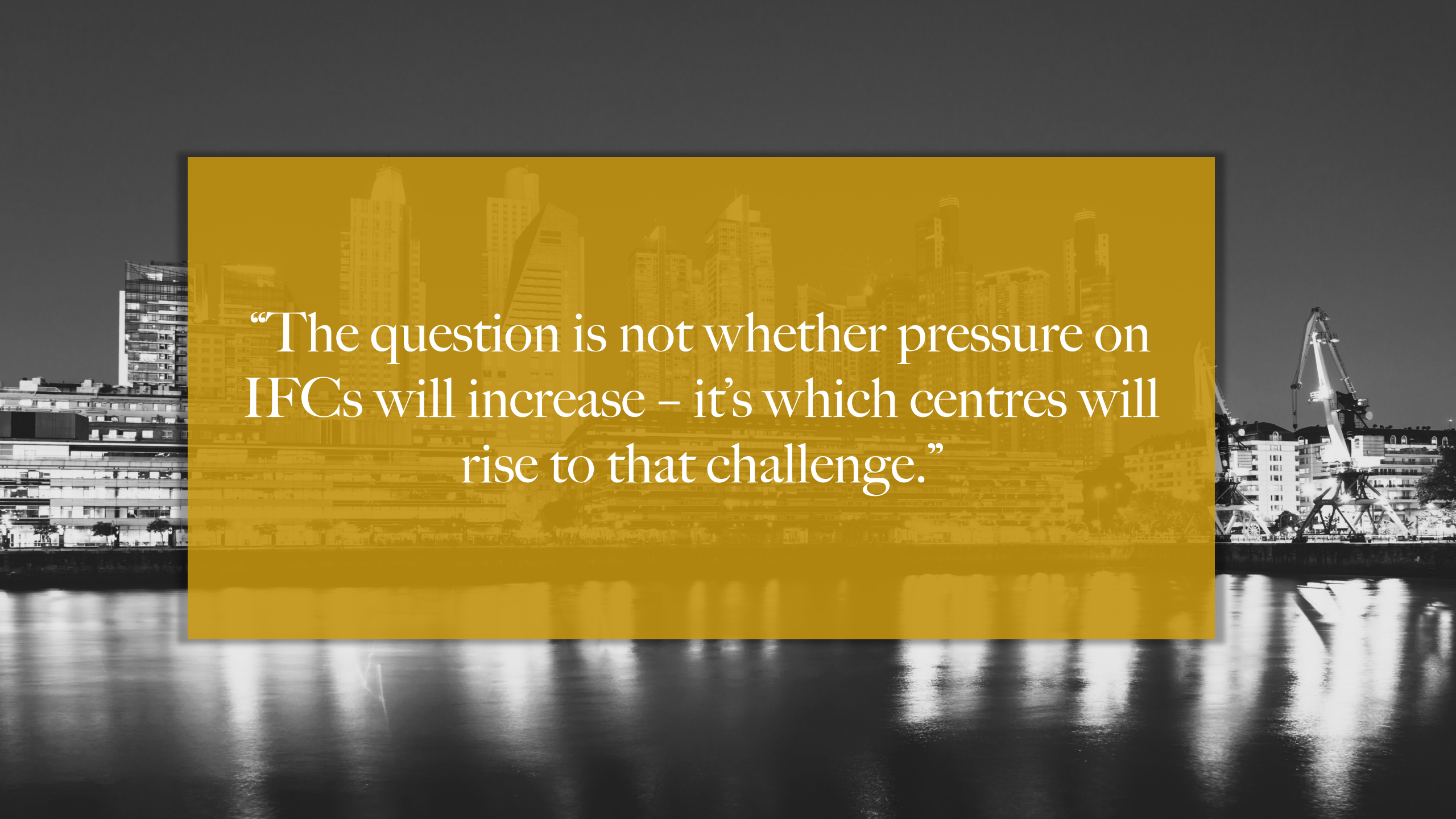
- Will this centre still be credible after the next FATF review, cyber incident or sanctions wave?

When hearing “level playing field”:

- Are standards really being levelled for everyone?

When protecting wealth:

- Are you managing tax **and** data, cyber, sanctions & market-access risks?



“The question is not whether pressure on IFCs will increase – it’s which centres will rise to that challenge.”



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