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Stablecoins, Global Digital Currency and the Future of the International Monetary System

By Jeremy Allaire, Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO of Circle

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Introduction

On September 15, 2008, Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy and the largest economic crisis in 79 years cascaded through the global financial system. Six weeks later, on October 31, 2008, the Bitcoin whitepaper was quietly published. Without fanfare, it introduced a groundbreaking new approach to creating a secure digital currency with no centralized authority using a new innovative technology: blockchains.

These twin events in the fall of 2008 both triggered profound changes in the global financial system. The Great Recession ushered in an unprecedented extended period of accomodative monetary policy. The invention of blockchains fueled a decade of innovation in digital currencies. The impact of these changes have begun to converge and create an opportunity to forge a new international monetary system that combines the strengths of global central bank money with the power of public blockchains. Through such an effort, it should become possible to establish a new global economic system that is more integrated, stable, secure and open to everyone in the world, ultimately helping to increase wealth creation for all.

This paper attempts to catalyze new thinking on these issues and lays out key topics global policy makers should consider as they chart a course forward for the global financial system and digital currencies during the next decade. In particular, the paper explores the opportunities and challenges posed by "stablecoins" — cryptocurrencies that are backed by, or pegged to, central bank money. It proposes approaches to governance and public-private partnerships that can help to unlock the transformative potential of stablecoins, including the eventual development of a global digital currency.

It is timely that many of the world's economic, political, financial and technology leaders are convened this year at the World Economic Forum in Davos to explore these ideas. More than ever, the Forum's mandate to embrace multi-stakeholder and public-private initiatives is needed to collectively improve the global economic system.

The Rise of the Internet

The opportunities for global economic transformation are implicitly woven together with the rise of the internet, which has brought billions together on a common open infrastructure to interact, communicate and conduct commerce. It is likely that the new international monetary system we seek to build will implicitly mirror many fundamental features of the base layers of the internet. The internet is inherently global and borderless, and is built on a technology architecture that is fundamentally permissionless and decentralized — it empowers individuals and organizations to connect freely, and is not run or controlled by any single government or corporation.

Twenty five years ago when the first commercial phases of the internet were unfolding, it was not apparent to most people what form and shape this new "global information superhighway" would take. For many countries and large media and communications companies, they assumed it would be business as usual — they would build out their own closed off digital realms.

At the same time, a growing community of computer scientists, cryptographers, hackers, and technology entrepreneurs saw the power of open protocols, open standards, free intellectual property and decentralized systems. Through sheer will and creativity, the community built out an open, global and decentralized public infrastructure that everyone could plug into. While that foundation has largely remained intact, billions still do not yet have digital access, and in some parts of the world, the liberal and democratic

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principles of open access have been curtailed by varying levels of state control.

These open networks and standards have brought us so much of the internet we know and love today — instant and free access to nearly all of the world's knowledge, instant and free and high quality communications with any person, anywhere, and an incredible array of new modes of service delivery and commerce only made possible by the internet. It has also brought global challenges — cyber warfare and hacking, digital election interference and propaganda machines, trolling, social isolation, addiction issues, and increased surveillance and loss of privacy, among other issues.

As we explore the future of the international monetary system, and investigate the potential of public blockchain networks, central bank digital currencies and global stablecoins, it is important to keep in mind the power of the internet and how it has already reshaped our world. At the same time, the existing monetary system and the existing internet both suffer from significant failures. A combination of new global policy and governance and new technologies such as public blockchains holds the potential to address and overcome failures and weaknesses in both domains.

The Internet and Globalization

The rise of the internet strongly correlates to accelerating globalization. Fundamentally, the internet itself knows no boundaries, and at its core it connects people everywhere equally. Individuals and firms connect and transact more freely than ever before. Global commerce marketplaces such as Alibaba and Amazon make it possible for product creators everywhere to reach precisely the right consumer with ease. With a few notable exceptions where censorship remains a state prerogative, global information and knowledge flows freely, acting as a fluid and powerful currency for increased globalization.

Increasingly, more and more people no longer think with the constraints of borders. The concept of borders disappears as people browse and search the Web, use email and messaging apps, play games and buy and sell products online. When people search and browse content globally and engage with firms and content, they don't think about where servers are located. Most consumers would never want to go back to a world

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where information and communications and commerce were siloed into physical geographies and mostly managed by governments or corporate monopolies.

Many of these changes have also brought on a backlash, as policy and governance and societal norms and needs are increasingly colliding with the impact of the internet.

Increasing centralization of information and data with large internet technology

companies has raised profound questions and challenges around free speech, privacy and civil rights. The inherently open and permissionless nature of the internet has given rise to increasing amounts of private data theft, and even disruption of physical infrastructure through cyber attacks.

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Increased globalization, with its inherent dislocation of labor and economic coordination and production, has led to dramatically changing economic conditions, with many nations and people rising out of poverty, but also with sharpening economic inequality in even the most developed economies in the world. And while globalization has overall driven broad-based economic growth, we have also seen continued concentration of wealth and income with the ultra-wealthy, while billions of people do not yet even have even basic access to the global financial system.

At the same time, the global monetary system has become more tightly interconnected and interdependent, increasingly strained and with greater risks. In response to the global financial crisis, economic policy makers have maintained the most accomodative monetary policy on record with central banks continuing to manage growth and inflation targets with more and more limited tools — money creation through the open market purchases of government debt, and extremely low and even negative interest rates. Central bankers around the world have had to operate within the constraints of national and regional fiscal mandates, in tight calibration with US monetary policy, which maintains hegemonic status. The ultimate outcome of these accommodative policies is still yet unknown; indeed, even the most brilliant economists, asset managers and analysts can only speculate on how this accommodative policy can be safely exited without economic shocks.

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The Limits of Our Legal, Political and Economic Systems in the Age of the Internet

All of this points to the increasing evidence that our legal, political and economic systems, which were almost entirely forged in eras previous to the internet, must evolve to reflect our new global realities.

One path is a path of internet balkanization — to attempt to impose the laws of our existing nation-state system onto the internet; balkanizing information, communications and commerce. Indeed, rising economic and cultural nationalism may lead towards such balkanization, potentially setting back the advances we have made towards building a more open, global and connected world.

The other path is to re-think the fundamental infrastructure and building blocks of social and economic organization, to embrace the inherent benefits and network effects of internet-driven globalization, and to build a new open, global technology infrastructure that advances our ability to safely undertake governance and economic activity on the internet. Such a path would also seek to build an architecture that helps to ameliorate many of the risks and negative consequences of the open internet such as the increasing violations of privacy and security for both individuals and firms.

In today's world, economic actors — both individuals and firms — interact globally, moving between the open, decentralized software-mediated world of the internet and the legal and economic systems where they are domiciled. While a person or firm can send a digital asset or information to anyone without regard for location, when it comes to exchanging value or participating in economic contracts, our systems fall back on our legacy legal and economic infrastructure.

A simple transaction such as sharing or sending money between people becomes cumbersome, slow and expensive. A slightly more involved economic arrangement — say a person conducting labor as a service for a firm across the internet — not only faces friction in the actual exchange of value, but falls back on legal contracts that are interpreted and enforced by humans in courts in an entirely different part of the world. More involved economic arrangements, such as trade between firms, instantly inherit a labyrinth of legal, accounting and taxation regimes requiring expensive and

specialized people, significant manual processes, and often slow decision making.

As more and more organizations form with participants located in geographically distributed locations, increasingly facilitated by using the internet, our systems of corporate organization are colliding with the massive edifice of existing national legal and economic systems.

New forms of corporate organization are becoming possible, where 'firms' are formed out of contracts implemented in code, and where the governance, treasury and economic activities of the firm are literally codified in software based contracts, interpreted and enforced by trustless, secure, transparent and audited computing networks. In such a world, people and firms could interact, coordinate and transact with each other as instantly and safely as we share content and information.

Economic systems built to support these new blockchain-enabled firms could reduce frictions in trade and commerce, introduce and include more people in the global economic system, and enhance trust and accountability in economic activity everywhere. Such changes require not only technological transformation, but also adapting and transforming legal and economic systems.

Public Blockchains and Economic Transformation

While the internet has brought dramatic transformation in the worlds of media, communications, software, computing and commerce, and has deepened our global ties, its fundamental infrastructure never contemplated its potential role as a foundation for social governance and the monetary system.

The building block protocols of the internet made today's internet possible, but never contemplated a world where people and institutions sought to use the same open networks to safely transact with each other, participate in governance and accounting processes, or enter into and enforce financial contracts. This is the backdrop from which public blockchains have emerged.

First pioneered with Bitcoin, who's open and permissionless blockchain created a secure, immutable and decentralized ledger for the storage and exchange of value, new generations of blockchains hold the promise of

providing a new layer of public infrastructure for governance and economic activity.

During the last 10 years, blockchains have emerged as potential building blocks for a new global financial system. Rather than being led by economic policy makers, in this arena the efforts have been led by computer scientists, cryptographers, technology entrepreneurs, and a deeply inspired global community committed to building a more open and inclusive financial system. These blockchain projects are still in their early days, but are gaining momentum with increasing velocity and force as large nation states, big tech companies, and the broader crypto community begin to deliver technologies for digital money that will reshape the international monetary system in exciting and unpredictable ways.

Public blockchains such as Ethereum and many of its competitors represent a new kind of "economic operating system for the internet". This new public infrastructure is designed to provide an open and immutable system of record-keeping, transaction processing and computation. Public blockchains are purpose-built for "Fiduciary Trust Applications", designed to execute and enforce applications that allow for counter-parties to enter into transactions without relying on centralized intermediaries, with near perfect audibility and verifiability.

Public blockchains will scale to support new systems of voting, governance, value exchange and economic interaction. Built on advancements in cryptography and security, public blockchains are also adding a deeply needed layer of privacy and security to internet applications and commerce, helping to address the escalating risks and threats of cyber attacks.

This infrastructure has the potential of providing a global public good that all people,

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firms and nations can build on for governance and economic activity. In the same manner that no corporation or government controls the world wide web or internet email, we need to ensure that no country or private corporation controls public blockchains.

With blockchains such as Ethereum, it became possible to represent important records and assets in a digital form, and to codify, literally, the rules for their exchange and use through 'smart contracts'. While such technologies have provided a powerful proof of concept for financial applications used by millions of people, industry and developers are working intensely on next-generation

blockchains that can scale to support billions of users with greater reliability and security.

The technical capabilities of public blockchains such as Ethereum have also given rise to the world of global stablecoins; entirely digital representations of either fiat-pegged or fiat-backed central bank money that can be used and exchanged over the open internet in the same manner that we can exchange digital content and information around the world today.

The Rise of Stablecoins

Initially created for cryptocurrency traders who were seeking a stable-value crypto asset for trading and hedging positions on trading exchanges, stablecoins have rapidly emerged as one of the most important foundational components and ideas in blockchain-based financial infrastructure.

Unlike proposed Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC), most stablecoins are designed to operate on public or semi-public blockchains, inheriting many of the most powerful attributes of cryptocurrencies — open, global, interoperable use over the internet, and the ability to integrate and use such currencies within 'smart contracts', allowing for powerful innovations in the delivery and accessibility of financial services. They also inherit some of the risks of cryptocurrencies, such as financial crime and money laundering risk and consumer protection risk through irrevocable loss of funds. Also, because they depend on asset-backing, they have the potential to introduce safety and soundness risks both from their issuers and even to the broader banking system.

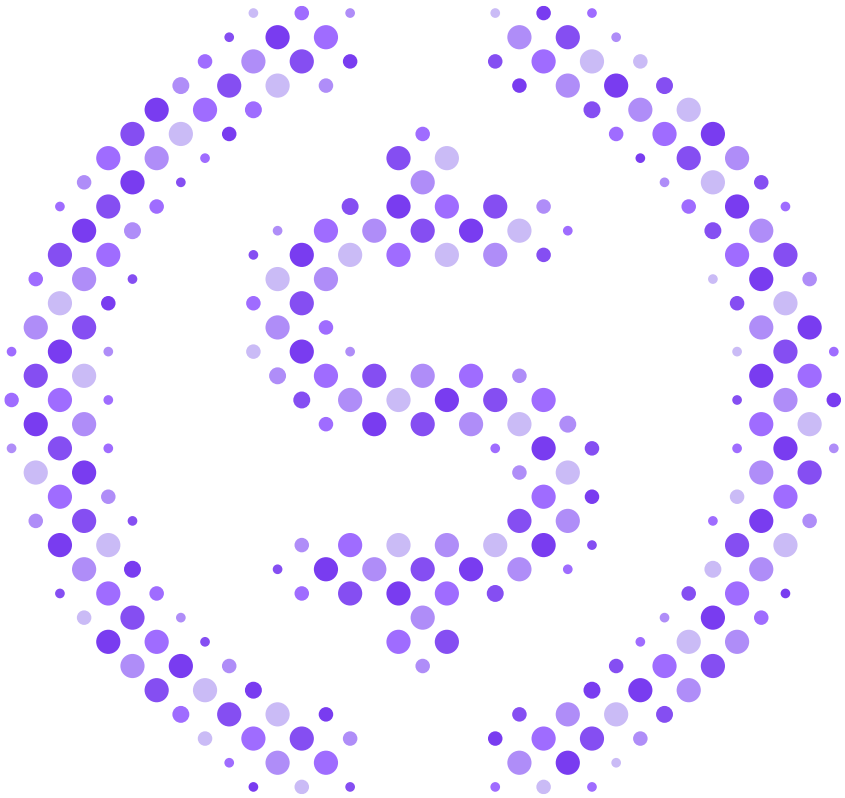
The vast majority of stablecoins that have been introduced are issued and tightly controlled by single private companies. A proliferation of private and competitive stablecoins seems unlikely to lead to the kinds of standards and governance that can allow this innovation to flourish and become widely accepted around the world.

In 2019, new stablecoin initiatives launched with the goal of establishing technology, self-governance and a consortia approach to global stablecoins. The CENTRE Consortium and its USD Coin (USDC) stablecoin sought to build multi-stakeholder consortia that would lead to robust and widely adopted global stablecoins.

Such consortium provide several benefits:

- ✓ No single company controls the stablecoin.
- ✓ There are clearly established rules around compliance with regulatory frameworks.
- ✓ They establish a clear model for the safekeeping of the reserve assets, including attestation frameworks that are transparent to the world.
- ✓ They provide open source technology that a broad community of developers and stakeholders can contribute to.
- ✓ Most importantly, they ensure that there is a common and fungible digital currency unit that can eventually be issued and redeemed by hundreds of companies from all around the world.

While today the dominant use-case for global stablecoins is as a fiat currency substitute in crypto trading markets, efforts such as the CENTRE Consortium and the Libra Association have been designed



with much broader use-cases in mind. These consortium aim to provide open and interoperable global payment and settlement rails that can reach hundreds of millions to billions of consumers and ultimately allow for payments and value exchange to become fundamental building blocks for applications and commerce on the internet.

Global Political and Economic Implications of Stablecoins

Global stablecoins are likely to have a profound impact on international political and economic affairs. We are rapidly moving towards a world of borderless money and value exchange, where any person with an internet connected device will be able to exchange value with any other person instantly, securely and at near zero cost.

Digital money in the form of stablecoins can be used everywhere the internet can reach, rendering obsolete notions such as cross-border payments, while raising enormous challenges and complexity for governments around the enforcement of their fiscal and monetary policy.

Cryptocurrencies such as global stablecoins open up the possibility for any person with a mobile phone to simply download a digital currency wallet app on a smartphone, and connect and use the stablecoin of their choosing. In effect, this translates to a world where consumers will be able to "vote with their smartphones" for which currency they want to adopt, and ultimately which global economic system and monetary policy they want to participate in. Regional and international concerns over "dollarization" will be amplified, as digital wallets on smartphones become self-sovereign personal bank accounts.

Even more profound, with non-custodial digital wallets, consumers can secure and store their digital money using a passphrase (what is often referred to as a 'seed phrase') which only they know and memorize, effectively ensuring that access to their funds is possible from anywhere so long as they can remember their passphrase. The use of "brain wallets" provides individuals with incredible liberty, allowing refugees or people fleeing persecution to secure their wealth without fear of losing access to an account or device; it also increases the risks of money laundering and tax evasion.

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Capital controls and government treasury policies will battle with mobile apps and public blockchains for supremacy, possibly leading to harsh and restrictive measures by weaker currency regimes and increasing internet balkanization. However, just as users evade firewalls and IP restrictions

to access the free and open internet, they will more aggressively seek access to the free and open internet economy and thwart and bypass such control regimes.

Global stablecoins offer the potential for a dramatic opening up of participation in global economic activity. While much focus and attention has been placed on the opportunity to reduce the cost and accessibility of global payments, the more dramatic and significant opportunity is the realization of the idea of "programmable money", which will allow individuals and firms to much more easily and safely enter into economic arrangements over the internet.

Programmable money combines the innovation of global stablecoins and smart contracts — code representing economic arrangements, executed and mediated on public blockchains — to allow for trust-minimized economic arrangements.

With money becoming just another form of data on the internet, and with economic contract execution over public blockchains, we may witness an unprecedented amount of creativity and innovation in how finance and economic activity takes place around the world.

From Single Currency Stablecoins to Global Digital Currencies

With a primary use in digital asset trading markets and as a digital dollar hedging instrument, it is not surprising that today's stablecoins are dominated by assets denominated in or backed-by US dollars. However, with advancements in public blockchain infrastructure and growth in stablecoin technology and governance consortia such as CENTRE, there is likely to be growth and proliferation of more fiat-backed stablecoins representing other major reserve currencies such as Euro, Yuan, Yen, Pound Sterling and so forth.

As next-generation blockchains that support greater scale and transaction throughput are deployed, the use of global stablecoins for everyday payments and settlement will proliferate. Stablecoins for G20 currencies will emerge to meet these payments use-cases and will lay the foundation for much broader adoption of crypto currencies in everyday commerce.

At the same time, the inherently global nature of stablecoins will continue to drive the world towards greater standardization and integration. People and firms will be more easily able to store value and transact in their preferred reserve currency, which will increase pressures on monetary sovereignty and ultimately create the conditions for G20 nations to consider and ultimately support the development of a new global digital currency unit.

Meanwhile, non-sovereign digital currencies such as bitcoin are likely to continue to grow in value and usage, as they represent a new safe-haven asset that is independent of central bank money and their implicit inflationary policies. In the coming decade, governments and central banks themselves may begin to mine or accumulate reserve positions in bitcoin, much as they have been increasing their positions in gold over the past decade.

The combination of all of these trends should create the necessary conditions for the establishment of a new global digital currency, built from a basket of leading reserve currencies and non-sovereign digital currency units such as bitcoin. Such a global digital currency would be able to function across multiple public and private blockchains, and holds the promise of ushering in a new international monetary system built on digital currency and blockchain technology.

The Need for Global Stablecoin Standards and Governance

While governments and regulators begin to explore the implications of stablecoins, private-sector actors are also moving forward at an accelerating pace to build standards and governance models for the issuance and management of global stablecoins.

Industry and financial market participants will benefit from common standards for stablecoins. Efforts such as the CENTRE Consortium and the Libra Association are initial takes on how to govern stablecoins, providing both regulators and market participants with open source technologies and common standards that multiple industry participants can adopt, standardized compliance policies, and reserve management and accounting and audit functions that ensure the safety and soundness of the assets that back the stablecoins.

New stablecoin consortiums are taking different approaches. The CENTRE Consortium is starting with fiat-denominated stablecoins for major reserve currencies, starting with the US dollar, and with a roadmap to add more G10 reserve currencies in the coming years. On the other hand, the Libra Association is starting by introducing the idea of a new global basket currency, the Libra Reserve. Given the scale of many of the private companies behind the Libra Association, there is understable concern from governments about the introduction of a new global currency unit that could usurp national monetary sovereignty. At this point, it is unclear if the Libra project will go forward as originally conceived, or if they too will shift towards a model more similar to the CENTRE Consortium and begin with single reserve currency stablecoins.

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Some of the benefits of building on open standards and consortium-based governance are already emerging. For example, the CENTRE stablecoin smart contracts and USD Coin (USDC) are being integrated into hundreds of third-party solutions, spanning wallets and custody solutions, trading markets, savings and lending, payments, games and trade finance applications.

A Technology Roadmap for Global Stablecoins

Today's stablecoins are adequate for trading and settlement use cases, but are limited by the scalability and privacy features of existing blockchains. To drive mass market adoption of global stablecoins from a technology perspective, stablecoins will need to build on next generation blockchains while simultaneously creating and fostering open technical standards processes that welcome technical contributions from stakeholders globally.

Blockchain 3.0

First generation blockchain technologies such as Bitcoin were aimed at solving a narrower set of use-cases (e.g. in the case of Bitcoin, providing a privacy-focused digital cash with a sound monetary policy). Bitcoin itself continues to evolve to support improved privacy and security as well as technologies such as Lightening that aim to support greater scalability and transaction throughput for Bitcoin.

Many technologists and entrepreneurs joined the crypto ecosystem inspired by the broader ideas of smart contracts and programmable money, and the idea of tokenization — that one could represent existing assets as digital assets which could then be traded, exchanged and incorporated into 'smart contracts' in powerful ways. These ideas led to the development of 2nd generation blockchains such as Ethereum, which provide a more general purpose infrastructure for the development of decentralized applications and finance. Technologies such as Ethereum also gave rise to stablecoins, as it became more feasible to represent fiat currency as a digital asset on a public blockchain network.

However, it is widely acknowledged that 2nd generation blockchains are limited in their capacity to scale — both in terms of the amount of transactions they can support and the volume of users and user activity. There are also limitations in terms of the sophistication of programs and applications that can be developed and deployed on these blockchains, and the need for continued improvement in the privacy and security models of these networks.

Such technical advances can help to usher in the mainstream adoption of global stablecoins, making it possible for billions of people with smartphones to access this new architecture for global finance.

There are now dozens of competing projects aiming to provide 3rd generation blockchain infrastructure. Ethereum itself is going through a metamorphosis in the coming year with the introduction of Etherum 2.0, which seeks to address many of these challenges. Many other new blockchain efforts are vying for developer attention.

There are also nation-state driven industrial policies emerging for the development of national blockchain infrastructure, most notably in China, where President Xi Jinping has declared that blockchain technology is a national priority. It seems likely that government developed and administered permissioned blockchains will emerge in markets around the world.

However, the social and economic breakthrough of public blockchains, wherein the infrastructure is available as a public good, open to individuals, firms and nations on equal terms, continues to draw the energy of leading developers, computer scientists and crypto industry participants. Breakthroughs and broad deployment of 3rd generation blockchains is likely over the course of the next couple of years.

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Standards Processes and Harnessing Developer Communities

While the advent of 3rd generation blockchain technologies is a prerequisite to mainstream adoption of global stablecoins, it is also crucial that stablecoin protocols and technologies are built as open standards that everyone in the world can participate in.

Early and ongoing advances in internet infrastructure have relied upon both formal and informal technical standards governance processes. These include

formal standards bodies such as the World Wide Web Consortium and the Internet Engineering Task Force, as well as informal standards bodies organized as open source communities such as the Linux Foundation. Enterprise technologies such as Java, for example, have been governed through the Java Community Process, a collaboration of academics, independent developers and leading enterprise technology firms.

The technology infrastructure of global stablecoins will be best served through the formation of technology standards organizations that foster active participation, peer review and the development and release of open source technology. One such effort is in its early formation with the CENTRE Consortium, where new technical working groups are being formed to facilitate the development of the CENTRE stablecoin standards. Similarly, the LIbra Association seeks to create a member-governed technology development process for the Libra Blockchain.

A Policy and Governance Roadmap for Global Stablecoins

Unlike many other areas of the internet, the development of global stablecoins used on public blockchains requires significant coordination in our global multi-stakeholder monetary system. Open source technology communities, private sector actors, national governments and central banks and global supra-national financial policy bodies must come together to collaborate and build this new international monetary system.

Public Private Partnership Approaches

While there has been a great deal of attention put towards the idea of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC), an emerging idea is gaining currency with both industry and economic policy makers, and that is the idea of Hybrid CBDC. In this formulation, public sector actors, including both central banks and national financial regulators, would work closely with private sector actors to supervise and ultimately license stablecoin payment network systems as well as individual firms who would mint stablecoins backed by central

bank reserve deposits. This “Hybrid CBDC” model allows the private sector, including the broader open technical development community, to drive forward with technology and business model innovation, while also ensuring that such global stablecoin systems meet a reasonable standard for compliance and safety and soundness.

As articulated earlier, the development of industry consortium and standards efforts such as CENTRE potentially create a foundation for robust public private collaboration. Through strong self-governance, transparency and reporting, such consortiums give regulators and policy makers an organized forum for transmitting policy and regulatory objectives to industry and market participants, while also enabling private sector innovation to advance at a pace commensurate with technology and the marketplace.

Consortiums such as CENTRE are being designed to scale to a global community of participants, and to enable the creation of stablecoins representing the world’s leading reserve currencies. Central banks and policy makers from these regions can collaborate with each other and the consortium to ensure that the standards and policies developed are consistent on a global basis.

The Role of Central Banks and Global Financial Regulators

With a Hybrid CDBC model, central banks continue to assert their primacy in managing their national or regional monetary policy, while also paving the way for new market participants and financial technology firms to drive global innovation in the infrastructure that supports digital money and financial services innovation using blockchains.

Meanwhile, the adoption of blockchain-based digital money ultimately provides central banks with more powerful tools for monetary policy transmission, monetary and risk supervision, and can lead to more effective enforcement of AML/CFT policies.

> **Ultimately, the development of standards for the supervision of global stablecoins and stablecoin consortium requires a coordinated policy response at the global level.**

Given the significant changes made possible with public blockchains and global stablecoins, central banks must be ready and able to embrace significant new models for how the financial system will operate, and ultimately collaborate with national lawmakers to define new kinds of banking charters that embrace the financial firms of the future.

Ultimately, the development of standards for the supervision of global stablecoins and stablecoin consortium requires a coordinated policy response at the global level. Global policy coordination through the Group of Thirty, the G20 and Financial Stability Board, and through research and innovation initiatives from the International Monetary Fund and the Bank of International Settlements.

Such coordination on policy and regulatory matters will take time and patience, and also requires that major central banks and policy makers proactively engage with industry and stablecoin consortium as they bring innovative technology and products to market.

Summary

Today more than at almost any time in history, the opportunities and challenges facing the world require global governance built on multi-stakeholder solutions that bring together public and private sectors and members of civil society. Rising trade tensions and economic nationalism threatens the world economy, risking to upend the fragile post financial crisis monetary system. Meanwhile, disruptive innovations such as global stablecoins and public blockchains point us towards a new architecture for the global economy built for the digital age, creating a financial system that is more inclusive, efficient, innovative, safe, secure and that helps create wealth and value for all who participate.

These twin forces have unfolded in parallel over the past ten years. With vision and focus, the next ten years can converge the traditional monetary system with the world of cryptocurrency and public blockchains. Global stakeholders should step away from short-term and nation-state specific thinking and imagine what can be built for the economic benefit of everyone, everywhere.

About the Author

Jeremy Allaire is Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO of Circle, a global financial technology firm that enables businesses of all sizes to harness the power of stablecoins and public blockchains for payments and commerce worldwide.

Circle is the pioneer of the fastest growing fiat-currency backed stablecoin, USD Coin. Circle was founded in 2013 and is backed by $250 million from investors including Jim Breyer (Facebook), IDG Capital (Baidu, Tencent), General Catalyst (Airbnb, Stripe), Accel Partners, and Bitmain, with offices in Boston, New York, Dublin and London. Mr. Allaire previously co-founded and led multiple global internet technology companies with thousands of employees, hundreds of millions of consumers served, and multiple successful public offerings on NASDAQ. He has also provided expert testimony on cryptocurrencies and digital assets before US Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Government Affairs, US Senate Banking Committee, and he has been named to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) High-Level Advisory Group on FinTech.

Mr. Allaire provides perspective and policy recommendations at the highest levels inside financial bodies across the US, UK, Europe and Asia, and frequently participates in international forums focused on the future of the international monetary and economic system.

Jeremy Allaire
Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO of Circle