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The Role of Cryptocurrencies in International Peace and Security with Emphasis on the Development of Global Trade

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ABSTRACT

The emergence of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology over the past decade has transcended the boundaries of traditional monetary and financial systems and has transformed the foundations of trust and economic regulation. On the one hand, this phenomenon—by eliminating banking intermediaries, facilitating international payments, and reducing transaction costs—has paved the way for the expansion of global trade and equal access to financial services. On the other hand, due to the absence of a coherent regulatory framework and divergent governmental approaches, it has generated challenges such as economic instability, money laundering, and threats to monetary policy. Within this context, the role of cryptocurrencies in strengthening economic cooperation and fostering positive peace among states—particularly through enhancing economic interdependence—constitutes an issue that has received limited comprehensive analysis in the literature of international economic law. Using a descriptive–analytical method and drawing upon legal, economic, and international policy resources, the present study seeks to elucidate the position of cryptocurrencies as instruments for removing banking barriers, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and reducing economic inequalities among countries. The analytical findings of the article indicate that cryptocurrencies, if governed by transparent and multilateral regulatory frameworks, can function as a novel infrastructure for economic justice and sustainable global peace; however, neglecting their international regulation will heighten the risk of financial fragmentation and economic rivalry.

Keywords: *Cryptocurrency, Blockchain, International Trade, Global Peace, International Organizations*

Introduction

The rapid transformation of financial technologies in recent decades has fundamentally challenged the traditional system of money and exchange. Among these developments, the phenomenon of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology holds a distinctive position, as it has redefined not only the concept of money but also the structure of trust and power within the global financial system (1). With their decentralized, transparent, and consensus-based digital nature, cryptocurrencies have managed to transcend national boundaries and classical monetary rules, providing a new platform for economic interactions at the global level (2). Although this development was initially perceived as a technological innovation in the field of electronic transactions, its legal, economic, and even political dimensions gradually emerged, turning it into a central topic within the literature of international economic law (3).



Due to characteristics such as the elimination of financial intermediaries, acceleration of international payments, and reduction of transaction costs, cryptocurrencies have created unprecedented opportunities for expanding global trade and strengthening economic linkages among states (3). At the same time, their decentralized and transboundary nature has produced new challenges for the international financial system—from the absence of coordinated regulatory oversight to concerns over financial security, money laundering, and tax evasion (4). Under such circumstances, rethinking the role of cryptocurrencies not merely as economic instruments but as structural phenomena within the international order becomes a necessity—phenomena that, if properly governed, can serve as factors of cooperation, transparency, and economic peace.

From a theoretical standpoint, the relationship between trade and peace constitutes one of the long-standing foundations of international relations. The greater the economic interdependence among nations, the lower the incentives and possibilities for conflict (5). In this regard, cryptocurrencies may strengthen such interdependence by expanding equal access to financial services, reducing economic discrimination, and enabling trade among countries and small enterprises, thereby contributing to the consolidation of positive peace (6). For developing countries in particular, cryptocurrencies offer an opportunity to participate more actively in global trade without relying on the centralized international banking system, mitigating financial isolation that may arise from sanctions or weak banking infrastructures (7). However, alongside their peace-enhancing capacities, the absence of harmonized global regulation may lead to economic instability, regulatory competition, and increased international financial risks (8). Consequently, international institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and the Financial Action Task Force are compelled to redefine their roles in addressing this emerging phenomenon. Coordination among these institutions to develop common rules and propose a global supervisory mechanism is essential for shaping the future interplay between financial technology and global economic peace.

Accordingly, the present article, using a descriptive–analytical approach, seeks to explore the role of cryptocurrencies in enhancing economic cooperation, reducing inequalities, and strengthening international peace. To this end, it first examines the concept of cryptocurrency and its economic mechanisms, then analyzes its relationship with development, economic justice, and the mitigation of political conflicts, and finally evaluates the role of international institutions in regulating and managing this phenomenon. The aim of the study is to demonstrate that if cryptocurrencies are organized within a coherent and transparent framework, they can function not merely as financial tools but as structural elements in realizing global peace and economic justice.

Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations

The Concept of Cryptocurrency and Its Position in the International Financial System

Transformation in methods of exchange and payment has been one of the most prominent indicators of the progress of human economic civilization. From barter systems to metallic currency and later fiat money, each period in the history of the global economy has reflected a shift in social trust and the technologies enabling exchange (9). In this evolutionary process, cryptocurrencies—as the latest achievement of financial technology—have opened a new chapter in the international monetary system. A cryptocurrency is a type of digital asset that operates based on cryptography and blockchain technology and is transferred via a decentralized, distributed network without the need for financial intermediaries such as banks (1). The essence of cryptocurrency lies in its technological trust and

mathematical transparency, such that transactions are recorded in a distributed ledger that resists manipulation, forgery, and censorship (10). Blockchain technology, as the core infrastructure of cryptocurrencies, is a public, encrypted database in which transaction information is stored in blocks that are sequentially linked. This connectivity and transparency prevent any single entity from independently altering or deleting information and thereby create automated, decentralized trust among economic actors (11). From an economic perspective, such transparency and distributed authority not only reduce the probability of fraud and financial corruption but also increase security, efficiency, and speed in conducting financial transactions (12).

The distinction between cryptocurrency and traditional money can be analyzed at several fundamental levels. First, unlike national currencies, cryptocurrencies are not backed by governments or central banks; their value is derived from user trust within the network and digital supply-and-demand mechanisms (13). Second, whereas conventional monetary systems rely on centralized institutions and banking systems, cryptocurrencies operate within decentralized structures, where control and oversight are exercised through consensus among network participants rather than by the state (7). Third, while the traditional financial system is grounded in state-issued credit and guarantees, cryptocurrencies are formed based on cryptographic algorithms and technological rules that remain largely independent of governmental intervention (14). Functionally, cryptocurrencies offer significant economic advantages. Eliminating financial intermediaries reduces transfer costs, increases transaction speed, and facilitates international trade. In traditional banking systems, the international transfer of funds typically involves high fees, settlement delays, and restrictions arising from national monetary regulations. In contrast, cryptocurrency transactions can be conducted globally without the need for authorization or intermediaries (3). This feature is especially valuable for countries facing banking restrictions or financial sanctions, providing an opportunity for more active participation in global trade (8).

Reducing transaction costs through blockchain technology not only increases economic efficiency but also strengthens trust among economic actors by lowering financial friction. Contemporary economic theories emphasize that the lower the transaction costs, the greater the likelihood of expanding trade and fostering economic convergence—developments that indirectly reduce international conflicts and enhance peace (15). Thus, cryptocurrencies, as modern financial instruments, are not merely technological innovations but also carry significant geoeconomic implications for transforming international relations. Moreover, the decentralized nature of cryptocurrencies has reduced the global financial system's dependence on specific financial hubs. Although such decentralization poses challenges for regulatory bodies, from the perspective of global economic justice, it can help distribute financial opportunities more equitably among states (16). Particularly in the post-crisis era, states have sought tools capable of restoring trust in the financial system, and cryptocurrencies have emerged as one of the potential options (17).

Nevertheless, the independence of cryptocurrencies from states does not imply the absence of regulation. Although blockchain aims to reduce reliance on centralized institutions, the lack of clear regulatory frameworks can lead to economic instability or financial abuse. Therefore, at the international level, institutions such as the FATF and the European Central Bank emphasize the necessity of responsible regulation to ensure that cryptocurrencies, while maintaining their decentralized nature, serve the broader objectives of the global economy and help advance economic peace (4). Consequently, by integrating technology and economics, cryptocurrencies have redefined the traditional boundaries of money and financial sovereignty. This phenomenon has not only transformed the concept of trust and exchange but has also shifted the mechanisms of international trade toward greater transparency,

efficiency, and fairness. Despite regulatory challenges and potential threats, the role of cryptocurrencies in eliminating financial intermediaries and reducing transaction costs provides the foundation for an emerging economic order capable of strengthening international cooperation and convergence.

The Concept of International Peace and Security in Light of Economic Cooperation

The concept of peace in international relations has always been one of the most fundamental issues examined from philosophical, legal, and political perspectives. In the traditional view, peace was understood merely as the absence of war and military conflict between states—a notion that is referred to in the theoretical literature of international relations as “negative peace.” In this sense, the existence of peace is equated with the absence of direct threats or armed confrontations, without necessarily implying the presence of justice, cooperation, or development in the relations among nations (18). However, from the second half of the twentieth century, particularly after the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations, the understanding of peace underwent a fundamental transformation, shifting from a purely negative to a more positive and structural concept. Thus, the notion of “positive peace” emerged as the ultimate goal of the international community—peace that not only requires the absence of war, but also the presence of social justice, economic development, respect for human rights, and enduring cooperation among nations (19).

In this conceptual evolution, the United Nations Charter has played a central role. Article 1 of the Charter, by affirming the objective of “maintaining international peace and security,” emphasizes that this mission must be realized through collective action, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the development of friendly relations among nations. Furthermore, the Charter, in paragraph 3 of the same article, recognizes “achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character” as an integral part of the United Nations’ peacebuilding mandate. Accordingly, in the legal system of the United Nations, peace is not merely a political condition, but a comprehensive and multidimensional concept that is grounded in economic development and social justice (20). In the same vein, contemporary theories of international law emphasize the close linkage between security and development, to the extent that today the notion of “human security” has emerged—a concept that elevates security from the level of the state to the level of individuals and considers economic and social development as prerequisites for international stability (6).

From the perspective of economic theories, too, the relationship between the development of trade and the realization of peace is regarded as one of the fundamental principles of modern international relations. The theory of “economic interdependence,” rooted in the ideas of classical liberals such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo, holds that the expansion of trade among nations generates mutual dependence and reduces incentives for political and military conflict. The higher the level of economic cooperation, the greater the costs of war for states and the more durable the benefits of peace become (5). This idea was later elaborated in the form of the “commercial peace” thesis and was embedded in global economic policy through institutions such as the World Trade Organization and the World Bank.

In light of these approaches, trade is viewed not only as an instrument of economic growth, but also as a mechanism for consolidating global peace. From this standpoint, economic development in the international system is itself regarded as one of the key tools of peace. In reality, poverty, economic inequality, and the lack of commercial opportunities are among the most significant causes of instability and conflict at the international level (15). Economic development, by raising welfare levels, ensuring a fair distribution of resources, and improving

employment, creates the conditions for cooperation and mutual accommodation among states. In recent decades, the United Nations has placed particular emphasis on the linkage between sustainable development and peace, presenting the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for achieving lasting peace (21). From this perspective, positive peace is attainable only in the shadow of an economic order that is both just and participatory. Whenever the global economy is characterized by monopoly, sanctions, or inequitable access to resources, it fosters mistrust and conflict among nations. Conversely, as the free flow of capital, technology, and trade expands, common economic interests among states grow, and the motivation to preserve stability and security is strengthened (22). Thus, international economic cooperation and the expansion of trade function not only as drivers of economic growth, but also as instruments for institutionalizing peace within the global order.

Within this framework, the role of new financial instruments such as cryptocurrencies is also noteworthy. By facilitating cross-border transactions and enhancing economic transparency, cryptocurrencies have the potential to serve as complementary tools of economic cooperation in support of international peace and stability. When innovative financial technologies are able to reduce barriers to exchanges among nations and broaden opportunities for economic participation, it may be said that technology and the economy are working synergistically toward the realization of positive peace (23). Analytically, the relationship between economic development and global peace can be understood as a mutually reinforcing cycle: development fosters greater cooperation, cooperation reduces conflict and enhances stability, and stability, in turn, provides the foundation for sustained development. This reciprocal interaction—reflected in the normative foundations of the United Nations Charter and in contemporary economic principles—constitutes the core of the modern concept of global peace. Accordingly, peace and development are not two separate objectives, but rather two facets of a single reality which, in the contemporary international system, cannot be maintained except through sustained economic cooperation and enduring financial justice (6).

The Role of Cryptocurrencies in the Development of Global Trade

Cryptocurrencies and the Facilitation of Cross-Border Trade

One of the most prominent functions of cryptocurrencies in the global economic system is their ability to remove banking and financial barriers that have long impeded the free flow of capital and trade among countries. The traditional banking system, founded on institutional hierarchies and state-based regulatory controls, can, under certain circumstances—such as economic sanctions or international financial restrictions—turn into an instrument of political pressure. With their decentralized and borderless nature, cryptocurrencies have made it possible for financial flows to be liberated from the exclusive dominance of banking institutions and state power-based oversight, thus enabling economic transactions between countries and individuals to continue even under conditions of banking blockade (7).

In today's global financial system, economic sanctions are among the common tools of foreign policy employed by powerful states, particularly in the monetary and banking sectors. These sanctions are imposed through measures such as disconnecting targeted actors from international payment systems like SWIFT, restricting foreign exchange transactions, and freezing assets. By providing a decentralized payment infrastructure, cryptocurrencies can partially circumvent these obstacles. Since cryptocurrency transactions do not require the presence of a bank intermediary or authorization from a central authority, states and natural or legal persons can transfer funds without

passing through formal banking channels (2). In practice, this feature offers an alternative mechanism for the lawful economic interactions of countries that face constraints in the international financial system, without undermining the principles of transparency and traceability of transactions (8).

From an economic perspective, cryptocurrencies are not only instruments for addressing banking restrictions, but also means for facilitating and accelerating international payments. The traditional financial system, which relies on correspondent banks, ties the process of international fund transfers to a long chain of verifications and settlements. In this system, each cross-border transaction typically takes several days to complete, and multiple fees are added because the transaction passes through various international banking networks. By contrast, cryptocurrencies leverage blockchain technology to settle transactions almost instantly and at significantly lower cost, since each transaction occurs directly between sender and recipient with validation by the user network (1). This shift has turned cryptocurrencies into a serious option for international trade, especially in connection with the export and import of goods that require fast and secure settlement.

The facilitation of international payments through cryptocurrencies has both direct and indirect effects on the growth of global trade. First, it substantially reduces transaction costs by eliminating the fees charged by banks and financial institutions. Second, it dramatically shortens settlement times, thereby accelerating capital circulation. Third, in terms of trust and transparency, blockchain reduces the risk of financial disputes and contractual claims by providing an immutable record of transactions (3). Consequently, cryptocurrencies, while increasing financial efficiency, help to build a climate of trust among international trading partners and lay the groundwork for more sustainable economic cooperation among nations.

Another important dimension of the impact of cryptocurrencies is their role in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises. These businesses, often regarded as the backbone of the global economy, typically lack direct access to the international banking system and to major credit lines. The high costs of international transfers and the complexity of banking regulations limit their ability to engage in global trade (24). Cryptocurrency and blockchain technologies, by enabling fast, low-cost, and transparent payments, have lowered barriers to entry into global markets for such enterprises. This is particularly significant in developing countries where banking infrastructures are inadequate, as cryptocurrencies make it possible for small businesses to participate actively in international electronic commerce (23).

Moreover, by providing direct access to global financial networks, cryptocurrencies remove the need for credit intermediaries and correspondent institutions. Small businesses can use smart contracts to conduct their transactions automatically, securely, and in a traceable manner, without relying on international banks or credit-guarantee institutions (25). Such mechanisms not only speed up capital cycles but also reduce default risk and enhance trust in commercial dealings. As a result, within a legitimate and well-regulated framework, cryptocurrencies can become powerful tools for economic empowerment and for strengthening the participation of states and enterprises in the international trading system.

Cryptocurrencies and the Realization of Global Economic Justice

One of the most fundamental challenges of the international financial system in the past century has been the structural inequality among states in access to financial resources, capital, and monetary technologies. The historical dominance of economic powers over international financial institutions and the concentration of the global payment system in a handful of major financial centers have left developing countries on the margins of the world's

monetary order, granting them only a limited role in global economic decision-making processes (16). Against this backdrop, the emergence of cryptocurrencies may be regarded as a technological and, to some extent, justice-oriented response to the inequitable structure of the global financial system—a phenomenon that, by creating more equal platforms for access to financial services, has enabled broader participation of states and societies in the international economic order. With their decentralized and transnational nature, cryptocurrencies allow individuals and governments to obtain monetary and financial services without reliance on banks or traditional international financial institutions. This characteristic is particularly important in countries that, due to weak banking infrastructures or financial sanctions, have been denied meaningful access to the global monetary system (2). Blockchain technology, as the infrastructure underlying cryptocurrencies, makes it possible to create digital accounts, transfer value, and securely store assets without the intervention of central institutions (1). In this framework, cryptocurrencies have become instruments of financial empowerment that, by expanding financial inclusion, can integrate millions of previously unbanked people into the global financial system (8).

From the perspective of economic justice, expanding access to digital financial tools implies a redistribution of opportunities and a reduction in class-based and geographic disparities. The World Bank has repeatedly emphasized in its reports that around 1.7 billion people worldwide still lack bank accounts, even though a significant portion of them have access to smartphones and the internet—conditions that create a potential environment for using cryptocurrencies in financial transactions (26). Consequently, cryptocurrencies can play an important role in ensuring equal access to capital and credit by providing low-cost, fast, and intermediary-free financial services. Moreover, the elimination of transfer fees and banking charges makes both small and large-scale transactions economically viable even in economically weaker countries, a development that can stimulate domestic and regional trade (3). The role of cryptocurrencies in reducing economic inequality among states may also be examined from the viewpoint of international financial relations. One of the main drivers of persistent global inequality is the concentration of monetary power in the hands of states that issue key international currencies such as the dollar and the euro. This situation allows those states to exploit the status of their currencies for political and economic purposes and to shape global financial rules in their favor (27). With their decentralized nature, cryptocurrencies challenge this structure, since no government or bank exercises absolute control over them and their value is determined through the free interaction of users at the global level (14). At least in theory, this feature provides countries located at the periphery of the international monetary system with an opportunity to participate more actively in financial markets and reduces the monetary dominance of major powers.

In the same vein, cryptocurrencies can serve as tools for strengthening the participation of developing countries in the global financial system. Owing to weak banking infrastructures and limited access to international credit mechanisms, these states have often been excluded from global financial flows. Blockchain and cryptocurrency technologies, by eliminating the need for costly banking infrastructures and enabling direct value exchange, make it possible for these countries to engage more actively in digital trade and international transactions (23). Additionally, cryptocurrencies may provide a platform for attracting foreign investment, since the security and transparency of transactions enhance investor confidence and reduce risk in emerging markets (3). Participation by developing states in cryptocurrency networks can also give rise to a form of “financial multipolarity” as a counterweight to the dominance of the traditional monetary system. This situation may contribute to a relative rebalancing of international economic relations and create conditions for a more equitable distribution of financial resources at the global level. In effect, through their decentralized nature, cryptocurrencies challenge a financial

order based on the dominance of a few major currencies and, provided that clear legal frameworks are put in place, can become instruments for strengthening economic justice and global convergence (6).

However, the realization of these potentials requires coherent legal and regulatory structures at both national and international levels. Although cryptocurrencies can function as instruments of economic justice, the absence of transparent regulatory regimes raises the risk of misuse. It is therefore essential for international bodies such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the Financial Action Task Force to design policies that, while preserving the financial freedom associated with cryptocurrencies, direct their use toward the equitable development of the global economy (4). Thus, cryptocurrencies can be regarded as an intermediary link between financial technology and international justice—tools which, if properly employed, can not only guarantee equality in access to financial services, but also pave the way for the active participation of developing countries in the global economic system and, ultimately, for the strengthening of international peace and convergence.

The Impact of Cryptocurrencies on International Peace and Security

Economic Convergence and the Reduction of International Conflicts

Throughout the history of international relations, there has been a fundamental connection between the expansion of economic relations and the reduction of political conflicts. Theories of “commercial peace” or “peace through trade,” from the nineteenth century to the present, have been based on the principle that increasing economic interdependence among states diminishes their incentives and capacity to engage in conflict. Adam Smith and David Ricardo, through their theory of comparative advantage, argued that the free exchange of goods increases mutual welfare and strengthens peaceful relations among nations (5). This approach later came to be known in the literature of international relations as the theory of “complex interdependence,” which holds that in a world where economic, financial, and technological networks bind states together, war and political confrontation become not only costly but also economically irrational (28). In the age of globalization, trade has turned into a means of forging deep linkages between governments and peoples. As the volume of mutual trade and investment increases, common economic interests expand and, as a result, the incentive to preserve stability and avoid conflict grows stronger (22). Within this context, cryptocurrencies, with their unique characteristics, can serve as new instruments for reinforcing this economic interdependence. By eliminating banking borders and facilitating financial connectivity among nations, cryptocurrency technology not only frees transactions from the constraints of a centralized, politicized banking system, but also enables the establishment of economic relations between states that maintain hostile political relations or lack diplomatic ties (2).

From a technical standpoint, cryptocurrencies operate on global, borderless networks in which users anywhere in the world can exchange value without intermediaries or authorization. This attribute gives cryptocurrencies a power comparable to that of “informal economic diplomacy,” since even under conditions of sanctions or political tension, economic actors can continue to cooperate through these digital platforms (8). In fact, cryptocurrencies have contributed to the emergence of a type of “transnational economy independent of politics,” in which financial and commercial interactions can persist outside the direct control of state institutions. Such a mechanism can, particularly in relations between adversarial states, provide the basis for the gradual rebuilding of trust and the reduction of political hostility (27).

In recent years, numerous examples have emerged of cryptocurrencies being used to maintain or expand economic cooperation among countries facing banking restrictions or tense political relations. For instance, states such as Iran, Venezuela, and Russia have turned to the development of national cryptocurrencies or the use of global cryptocurrencies to facilitate foreign trade in response to international banking sanctions. In 2018, the government of Venezuela introduced the “Petro” cryptocurrency with the aim of circumventing foreign exchange restrictions and facilitating foreign trade (29). Iran has likewise explored the use of Bitcoin to settle imports in certain trade sectors in order to bolster foreign trade under conditions of banking sanctions (7). Although these measures still face legal and international challenges at the operational level, they reveal governments’ willingness to employ cryptocurrency technology as a means of sustaining economic cooperation under circumstances of political hostility. In addition to states, private companies and economic actors have also leveraged the potential of cryptocurrencies to foster cooperation among countries. Many small and medium-sized enterprises in Asia and Africa that face international financial constraints use cryptocurrencies for receiving and making payments and have thereby managed to establish electronic trade between countries that lack formal political relations (3). This type of decentralized economic cooperation is inherently peace-oriented, as it creates new patterns of economic interdependence that transcend political and military borders. Comparative examples at the international level also indicate that the use of blockchain technology in regional cooperation can foster economic trust and reduce conflicts. For example, within the framework of the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure, the European Union has employed blockchain to facilitate cross-border transactions among its members, with the aim of enhancing financial transparency, reducing bureaucracy, and strengthening mutual trust among member states (30). In Asia as well, joint blockchain-based supply chain projects between South Korea and Japan illustrate how innovative financial technologies can help preserve economic interaction amid political rivalry (10).

From a theoretical angle, the wider the decentralized financial and commercial networks extend, the higher the political costs of conflict become, because war or economic confrontation can destroy the shared benefits generated by such cooperation. In other words, by creating a form of “horizontal financial interdependence” at the international level, cryptocurrencies can help consolidate a structure of positive peace in which economic cooperation replaces political confrontation (6). Thus, just as traditional trade in earlier centuries acted as a factor bringing nations closer together and reducing wars, cryptocurrencies in the contemporary international order can become innovative tools for connecting nations through shared economic interests.

The Role of International Organizations in Regulating Cryptocurrencies and Preserving Global Peace

The emergence of cryptocurrencies and blockchain-based technologies has produced one of the most challenging developments in the international financial system in the twenty-first century. On the one hand, this phenomenon has created opportunities for facilitating global trade and expanding access to financial services; on the other hand, it has raised serious concerns regarding financial transparency, money laundering, tax evasion, and the financing of terrorism. In this context, international institutions play a decisive role in shaping the new financial order and in preventing crises that may arise from the unregulated expansion of cryptocurrencies (31). The World Trade Organization, within its mandate to regulate international trade rules—particularly in relation to the facilitation of payments and the free flow of capital—is compelled to address the impact of cryptocurrencies on the global system of exchanges. Although the Organization has not yet adopted specific regulations on cryptocurrencies, analyses conducted within its Committee on Financial Services indicate that cryptocurrencies

may be recognized as payment instruments in trade in goods and services, provided that they are consistent with the principles of transparency, fair competition, and members' commitments to the global financial system (24). From the perspective of this institution, cryptocurrencies can be effective in facilitating global trade, but only if harmonized international regulations for their oversight are established so as to prevent financial instability (8).

The International Monetary Fund, as the body supervising global financial stability, is also among the most active actors in analyzing and formulating policies on cryptocurrencies. In reports issued by this organization, cryptocurrencies are described as "crypto-assets with a dual potential": on the one hand, they are capable of enhancing financial inclusion and the efficiency of payment systems, while on the other, due to their decentralized and pseudonymous nature, they may pose threats to monetary policy, capital controls, and the stability of the banking system (32). For this reason, the IMF underscores the need for comprehensive and coordinated global regulation and has recommended that states, within a shared regulatory framework, systematically exchange information on cryptocurrency transactions and financial data (8). The Fund is also working, in cooperation with the Bank for International Settlements and the G20, on drafting standards for central bank digital currencies in order to prevent the adverse effects of private cryptocurrencies on monetary stability.

Among specialized bodies, the Financial Action Task Force has been more active than any other organization in countering the financial risks associated with cryptocurrencies. This body, whose primary mandate is to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, has issued several strategic documents on virtual assets since 2015. In its updated guidance released in 2021, the FATF, by defining the concepts of "virtual asset" and "virtual asset service provider," called on states to subject crypto-asset service providers to the same anti-money laundering and customer due diligence obligations that apply to traditional financial institutions (4). In practice, this approach has sought to move cryptocurrencies out of a state of regulatory vacuum and place them within a framework of transparency and accountability. Nevertheless, despite the efforts of these institutions, the absence of a binding global mechanism has meant that the regulation of cryptocurrencies remains fragmented and national in character; some states have recognized them as legitimate economic instruments, while others have prohibited them altogether (33). This heterogeneity increases the risk of cross-border financial crises, since cryptocurrency activities are inherently transboundary and divergent regulatory regimes among states can lead to the rapid transmission of crises from one jurisdiction to another (27). Hence, the need for an international mechanism for coordination, supervision, and information-sharing on cryptocurrencies is felt more acutely than ever.

In this regard, some scholars and financial institutions have proposed the establishment of an International Organization for Cryptocurrency Supervision. If created, such a body could operate under the oversight of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and in cooperation with institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the Financial Action Task Force, and the World Trade Organization. Its primary mission would be to oversee transparency in cryptocurrency markets, combat financial crime, and support sustainable development and global economic peace (3). This organization could, by drafting global standards for the issuance, exchange, and custody of cryptocurrencies, prevent regulatory competition among states and, through increased transaction transparency, help reduce international financial and economic tensions (2).

Beyond its technical role, the existence of such a coordinating institution could also have a peace-oriented function. In a world where economic warfare has become a new instrument of international rivalry, financial transparency and economic cooperation among states constitute one of the pillars of positive peace. An international body for cryptocurrency oversight, by creating mutual confidence in the financial sphere, could

indirectly contribute to strengthening political relations and reducing economic disputes among states (6). Thus, the international regulation of cryptocurrencies is not only an economic necessity, but also a legal and ethical mission aimed at realizing justice and global peace.

Conclusion

The transformation brought about by cryptocurrencies in the international financial system is not merely a technological innovation; it signifies a fundamental shift in the logic of economic power and trust. By disrupting the traditional centralization of money and undermining the dominance of banking institutions, this technology has made possible a new form of economic interaction in which trust rests not on state authority, but on technical transparency and network-based consensus. Such a change in its very nature can lead to a redefinition of the relationship between the economy and international peace. Through reducing transaction costs, removing banking barriers, and expanding access to financial services, cryptocurrencies have the capacity to generate a form of transnational economic solidarity in which shared economic interests replace political conflict. This feature can provide the basis for the formation of “sustainable economic peace,” particularly if it is guided within a transparent and harmonized international framework. However, the absence of a single supervisory authority and the lack of coordination among states increase the risk that this potential will be transformed into a financial crisis or a tool for abuse. Thus, the future of cryptocurrencies depends on the ability of the international community to strike a balance between technological freedom and legal order. If the regulation of cryptocurrencies is grounded in the principles of transparency, accountability, and economic justice, this technology can be elevated from a mere financial instrument to a driver of global peace and development—a peace that is founded not on power, but on trust and economic cooperation among nations.

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Authors' Contributions

All authors equally contributed to this study.

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The authors of this article declared no conflict of interest.

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Transparency of Data

In accordance with the principles of transparency and open research, we declare that all data and materials used in this study are available upon request.

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