

USEFUL RESOURCES

Opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean (ECLAC Series Document, 2015).

Report of the expert group meeting on opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean – LC/CAR/L.456 - 15 December 2014.

Report of the second expert group meeting on opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean – LC/CAR/L.461 - 21 April 2015.

Digital currencies: Response to the call for information. Her Majesty's Treasury, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. March 2015.



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UNITED NATIONS

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**Exploring the use
of Digital Currency
in the Caribbean**

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WHAT ARE THE TAKE-HOME MESSAGES?

- The digital currency industry is already establishing itself in the region.
- Policy makers need to become familiar with the issues surrounding digital currency, so they can respond to its emergence in a proactive, not reactive, manner.
- Policy makers should consider how to encourage the innovation made possible by the development of this technology, while mitigating the risks by making judicious use of banking regulations and law-enforcement tools that already exist.



WHAT IS ECLAC DOING?

These new payment systems bring opportunities as well as risks. The opportunities include potential benefits to the e-commerce sector and to its customers, reduced costs of sending and receiving remittance money from overseas, and a broader general engagement by Caribbean citizens with the digital economy.

On the other hand, national regulators are rightly concerned with the possibility that digital currencies could be used for money laundering and facilitating cybercrime, as well as potential effects on overall macroeconomic stability.



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WHY ARE DIGITAL CURRENCIES AN ISSUE?

ECLAC is researching policy options for Caribbean countries to consider in addressing the increasing use of new digital payment technologies. These technologies include cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, as well as mobile-phone based payment systems, such as “Tcho Tcho”, which has been introduced in Haiti as a means of providing financial services to a population underserved by existing banking infrastructure.

ECLAC has recently produced a report on this topic, aimed at educating regulators about the issues surrounding these technologies.



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