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1.1 Welcome Letter from the Secretary-General

Esteemed Delegates

As the Secretary General of BRCMUN'25, I am honored and pleased to welcome you all to our conference. On behalf of the entire BRCMUN'25 team, I would like to express our gratitude for the many difficulties we have faced. We have worked with passion, dedication, and great care to present a conference that we are really proud of.

My name is Ecenaz Anbarlı, I am a student of Beyhan-Rıfat Çıkılıoğlu Anatolian High School. BRCMUN'25, what once seemed like a distant dream, has now become our reality. I am honored to serve as Secretary General at such a prestigious conference alongside an academic team whose dedication and depth of knowledge continue to impress me every day. Since I first started at the United Nations, it has held a place in my heart, and my passion for it has only grown stronger over time.
Of course, none of this would have been possible without the endless support of our organizing team. Our whole team is ready to work for you.

The planning of the BRCMUN'25 started at once, and it was incredibly inspiring to witness how deeply we all care about this conference. We aim to show that the United Nations Model is more than just a simulation. It is a stage for young voices, a platform for diplomacy, and a space for change.

Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude to those who have been with me on this path, to my MUN predecessors who have shaped today's standards, and most importantly, to you for being here, participating, and believing.
Thank you for joining us on this journey.

With the most sincere regards,

Ecenaz ANBARLI
Secretary-General

anbarliecenaz@gmail.com

1.2 Welcome Letter from the Deputy Secretary General

Dear Participants,

I am very excited and sincerely grateful to welcome you all to BRCMUN25. As Deputy Secretary General, I am proud to be part of a conference that has been built on months of dedication, hard work, and an unwavering belief in what we do. From the moment the idea of BRCMUN25 was born, every member of our team has poured their hearts into making this more than a conference, but a shared experience that we can all grow from.

My name is Çınar Efe Buluş, I am a student of Beyhan-Rıfat Çıkılıoğlu Anatolian High School. Since I first stepped into the world of MUN, I have found something that challenges me, inspires me, and gives me a place where my voice matters. This feeling has only grown stronger with each conference. It has been an incredible journey to be able to participate in the creation of BRCMUN25 from scratch, a journey for which I am truly grateful.

This conference is not just about speeches and decisions. It's about learning to listen, understand, and work together. It's about discovering what kind of leader, thinker, and changemaker you can be. And to see so many passionate individuals gathered here today proves that we are on the right track.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to this process, especially the brilliant organization and academic teams.

But most of all, thank you for being here; your presence means everything to us. You are the one who makes BRCMUN special.

I wish you an unforgettable and inspiring conference.

Best Regards,

Çınar Efe BULUŞ
Deputy-Secretary General

buluscinarefe12@gmail.com

1.3 Welcome Letter from the President Chair

Dear delegates,

I would like to welcome you all to BRCMUN25' for the first time. I must declare myself that I am honoured to have a part of this fabulous conference.

To introduce myself, my name is Efe BÜTÜN, and I'm a 10th grader at Private Çağdaş Schools. This conference will be another MUN conference that I look forward to experiencing.

As the Acting-Under Secretary General and the President-Chair of the UNODC committee, I look forward to meeting you all as soon as possible. I hope this conference will be fruitful for everyone.

Sincerely,

Efe BÜTÜN
President-Chair

efebutun06@gmail.com

1.4 Welcome Letter from the Vice-Chair

Esteemed Delegates,
Firstly, I'm very pleased and joyful to attend this conference. I welcome you all to the UNODC committee at BRCMUN'25. I hope that we all will have a good time in these 3 days.

My name is Derin Uğurlaş, and I will be your Co-Chair for the upcoming 3 days in this special committee. I am a senior student from Eskişehir Gelişim Schools, and BRCMUN'25 will be my 5th. experience in my Model United Nations journey.

Our committee is the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and in this conference, our agenda item is money laundering and the role of cryptocurrencies. In these 3 days, we will be talking about the problems regarding this topic, and we will find solutions for these problems. As your Vice-Chair, I am waiting for all of you to talk confidently about your countries and come committee prepared. I totally believe my delegates about that, I'm sure that you will succeed.

Please contact us with any problems or questions.

Derin UĞURLAŞ,
Vice-Chair
ugurlasderin@gmail.com

2. Introducing the Committee: United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime

2.1 Historical Background of the Committee

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was established in 1997 with the merger of the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Department of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Headquartered in Vienna, Austria, UNODC operates in more than 150 countries around the world. UNODC ensures the law by helping countries strengthen their justice systems. UNODC also works on the financing of terrorism and reforming criminal justice systems. In this framework, UNODC aims to build a safer and fairer world by providing technical assistance, training programs, and policy recommendations to governments which has problems with these political complexes. It also adopts a human rights-based approach, placing emphasis not only on combating crime but also on protecting victims.

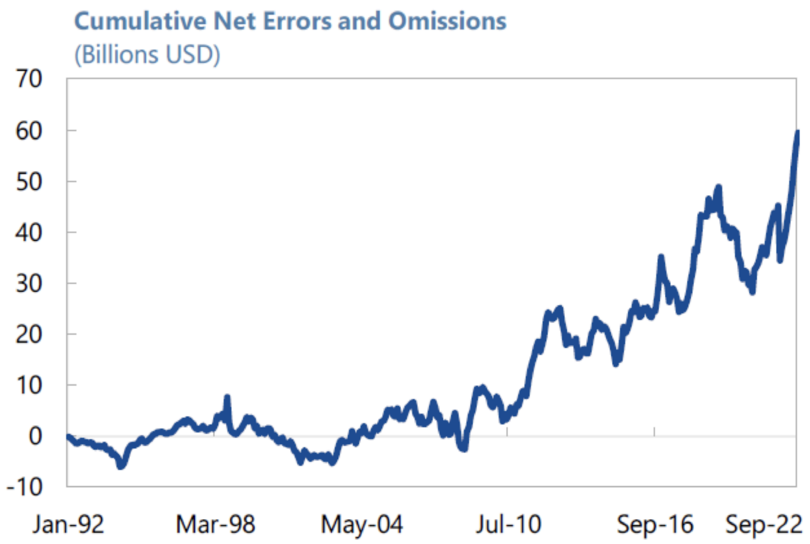
2.2 General Information about the Committee

UNODC was established to coordinate and comprehensively work on the prevention of illicit drug trafficking crimes, international terrorism, and political corruption, and to assist the United Nations in finding solutions to these crimes. All countries in the United Nations are members of the UNODC. Furthermore, the UNODC is a body that promotes the good and defends core human values, such as alternative development, criminal justice, and drug abuse, etc.

3. Introducing the Agenda: Money Laundering and the Role of Cryptocurrencies

3.1 Money Laundering

Money laundering is a system by which criminals neutralize countries' financial pathways and financial systems, smuggling ill-gotten money into the country and converting it into official funds without any repercussions on the country's economic systems. Money laundering is often used by militant groups, corrupt arms dealers, drug traffickers, and other groups that undermine a country's economy and human values, creating a complex national structure. Money laundering threatens not only economic systems but also the rule of law, the security of states, and the social fabric. Therefore, many countries have developed anti-money laundering laws and regulations through international cooperation.



Sources: CBRT and IMF staff calculations.

Due to money laundering systems, all of the countries have lost over 55 billion dollars since 2008.

3.1.1 Stages of Money Laundering

Just as every crime has stages, money laundering also has stages. These are essential for money laundering to take place.

I. Placement

Money laundering is the process of converting the proceeds of criminal activities into legally normal income, such as property and land. At this stage, usually large amounts of cash or cryptocurrencies are divided into smaller amounts and included in the financial system. In this method, the funds deposited are often withdrawn quickly through transactions below the reporting limit. Although there is no ceiling for cash transactions in most countries, criminals widely use this method. A notable feature of the placement phase is that it is fast and frequent. In conclusion, this stage makes it difficult to trace the source of the money.

II. Layering

It is the stage where launderers conceal the proceeds of crime, and is usually done simultaneously. The money launderers make their transactions fast, easy and quick, and the income included in the financial system is subjected to many processes and transferred from country to country, from banks to institutions, from different types of accounts to other accounts at full speed, thus removing it from its main source and making it unpredictable and minimizing its traceability. In this process, it is important to ensure that all money launderers are professional, take their work seriously, and since they do not have anything bad in their records, it is very difficult for them to be detected and caught. Since the motive behind the transactions is to create confusion and chaos, the transactions are more secret and hidden than they should be, making it easier for money launderers to achieve their goals.

III. Integration

Integration is the process of disconnecting from the illegal source

A black money enters the financial system through legal transactions without arousing suspicion. In the integration phase, money is ready to be used. It is no longer possible to know that the background of the money is illegal. At this stage, it is possible to purchase movable or immovable property, buy stocks, treasury bills, or bonds, make debt payments, or pledge collateral with black money. Integration can also be achieved by showing the legal income of the company established as a shell, mixing it with legal earnings, and obtaining loans from offshore banks.

At this stage, the money is reused or redirected to investments, providing a kind of homecoming. In the placement phase, the aim is to free the money from its cash form and integrate it into the system, while in the segregation phase, the aim is to remove the money from its illicit source through a large number of transactions. At these stages, money has not yet acquired a legal form. However, the money that appears in the financial system during the integration phase is ready-to-use money. It no longer needs to be circulated and transformed. What everyone does can be used for consumption, investment, or in some other way by legal transactions.

3.1.2 The Usage of Money Laundering

I. Smurfing

This method is the most well-known and preferred method of laundering the proceeds of crime and is characterized by the involvement of a large number of participants. The term “smurfing” first came to light during an investigation conducted by cost-containment police teams in the US state of Florida. During the investigation, the authorities concluded that the illicit proceeds were deposited by many people in different banks or in several branches of the same bank, a method used in an organized manner by criminal networks. Floridian authorities have dubbed the perpetrators Smurfs, after the little Smurfs from the famous Smurfs cartoon

II. Structuring

In this system, since it is difficult for the launderer to divide the funds from the total income into small amounts and to find many people to deposit them in the bank, it has been observed that it is possible to avoid notification by increasing the number of transactions instead of increasing the number of people. A transaction based on a very large amount is split into a large number of transactions based on small amounts. For example, $29 million was laundered by transferring it to Ecuador in recent years through more than 40,000 transactions averaging $600 each. The shredding method is similar to the smurfing method, but using a smaller number of people. Differs from the aforementioned method in terms of smurfing.

III. Tax Havens (Off-Shore)

Off-shore systems, especially offshore banking and shell companies, through which it is easy to launder the proceeds of crime and are generally used frequently. Coastal banking is a type of banking that generally operates in centers established and continuing to be established in free zones and is excluded from the scope of the legal regulations to which the banking system in the country is subject, and where attractive working conditions are provided thanks to the financial and legal advantages introduced. Coastal banks are not private banks, but basically collect deposits, grant loans, and lend based on trust and confidence, just like other banks based transactions. However, deposits in these banks are not guaranteed by the state. Not being under state guarantee constitutes a major crime and jeopardizes people's economic conditions.

IV. Auto Finance Loan-Back Method

This is done through financial institutions located in off-shore centers. The laundered money delivered to these places returns to its owner as a loan. Initially, the money launderer arrives at the off-shore center and transfers the money to the off-shore center. The bank operates at the place of the transaction. Of course, he then deposits this money. It can also transfer its account to a different bank in its home country. He then applies to the original bank in his home country and requests a loan by pledging his account as collateral. The bank in his/her home country grants him/her this loan. In this way, the person can invest the black money that he initially received from a bank in a different country in the investment he wants (house, car, land, etc.) with the loan he receives in his own country.

V. Bitcoin Method via Crypto

Cryptocurrencies are one of the common methods used in money laundering. Black money can be laundered with Bitcoin. It is stated that a significant portion of Bitcoin transactions consist of illegal transactions. Money laundering with Bitcoin has several stages. In the first stage, the Bitcoin sender initiates the money laundering process on the network. The Bitcoin sender finds a receiver to accept Bitcoins or a launderer to help hide the dark money. The next stage uses Bitcoin miners, which are processors that complete blocks and verify transactions

VI. Darknet

Buyers and sellers on darknet markets often use Bitcoin or privacy coins (e.g. Monero). This makes it difficult to trace financial transactions, and cryptocurrency cannot be tracked using services such as cryptocurrency mixers (Mixers/Tumblers). Thus, the cryptocurrency is integrated into offshore accounts, making it appear that black money has been “cleaned”.

3.2 Cryptocurrency

Depending on the development of technology, the prevalence of internet use and today's conditions play a major role in the spread of e-commerce. With this development, cryptocurrencies are also beginning to spread.

Today, cryptocurrencies, which have started to make their name known with Bitcoin, are beginning to take an important place in the world of finance. It is defined as virtual coins that take advantage of cryptographic systems, which are not tied to a central authority, and whose security level is greater than that of other coins. There are currently 2981 cryptocurrencies. However, the very well-known ones are Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), Ripple (XRP), Tether (USDT), Bitcoin Cash (BCH), Bitcoin SV (BSV), Litecoin (LTC). Since cryptocurrencies are a product of the virtual economy, transactions can be made easily and quickly over the Internet without the need for banking transactions.

Although cryptocurrencies have the characteristics of being a means of investment and savings, just like traditional currencies, they are not subject to a central authority. They are not subject to legal regulations, which distinguish virtual currencies from traditional currencies.

3.2.1 The Usage Areas of Cryptocurrencies

Thanks to the visible development of Internet banking, online shopping, and developing technologies, the use of cryptocurrencies has increased swiftly, especially in recent years. With that usage areas of crypto have become widespread. Some of the cryptocurrency usage areas are:

I. Investment

Nowadays, thanks to the popularity of crypto, cryptocurrencies have become one of the investment methods. It helps investors to make profits, especially by investing in cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum, as their value rises over time. Due to the radically variable structure of the crypto market, it is seen by experts as a speculative but also risky form of investment.

II. Remittances

Remittances can be defined as individuals transferring money between each other, whether nationally or internationally. It is seen as a good alternative to traditional banking systems for wire transfers due to lower fees and swifter processing times compared to other centralized banks for transferring cryptocurrencies. Since banks generally have to resort to intermediaries during remittance services, the increased service time and fees can speed up the process and reduce costs with methods that do not require intermediaries, as they are not connected to a central authority like cryptocurrencies. It should not be forgotten that, compared to its positive aspects, it also carries risks such as uncertainty of exchange rates and uncertainty of legislation.

III. Online Purchase

With the spread of e-commerce, online purchases have also become common. Many online sites now offer their users cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum as payment methods. In this way, users can shop directly from these platforms using digital currencies, without the need for an intermediary.

IV. Decentralized Finance (DeFi)

Decentralized Finance (DeFi) allows users to carry out traditional banking transactions using cryptocurrencies without the need for intermediaries commonly used in society, like banks. This way enables users to direct lending, borrowing, and trading through decentralized platforms. This offers greater accessibility, transparency, and control over financial transactions, hence eliminating the common need for banks.

V. Identity Verification

Blockchain technology, a product of the developing technology world, facilitates decentralized authentication, allowing users to control their data and make online transactions without relying on other authorities. At the same time, since it does not store user information in a central authority, it offers a more secure service to its users by reducing the risk of identity theft and helping users to manage and share their data more securely.

VI. Cross-Border Trade

Cryptocurrencies have begun to become a better method in international trade transactions, thanks to the swifter and cheaper transactions they offer compared to mainstream banks in remittances. It reduces the need for banks and also intermediaries, and increases the efficiency of international trade.

VII. Data Security and Privacy

As a product of developing technology, blockchain has a transparent recording system in which even the smallest information is stored and kept cryptographically secure. While the cryptographic storage system ensures that the information cannot be changed because it is stored, it also prevents identity and information theft by preventing unauthorized access. In addition, some cryptocurrencies increase the level of security by using encryption methods.

VIII. Voting Systems

Cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology are expected to affect politics not only economically but also democratically. It can be adapted to voting systems with the information transparency, security, and storage possibilities it provides without being changed; It is thought that it can guarantee fraud-free elections by preventing fraud. By utilizing these, voting systems can become more reliable and strengthen democratic governance. Cryptocurrencies, in addition to the innovations and conveniences they bring, also involve risks, so users need to be aware of them. If care is not taken, it can lead to major problems, not only loss of money but also cybercrime. Especially the variability of taxes and laws, as well as the variability of exchange rates, are among the factors that cause the problems brought by crypto. In addition, although it is highly secure due to its popularity today, it can lead to a lot of money and identity theft as a result of being the number one target of cyber attacks.

3.2.2 Beneficial Aspects of Cryptocurrencies

Cryptocurrencies have many features that make them much easier to use compared to traditional currencies. Fungibility is one of these features. Thanks to their fungible feature, cryptocurrencies can be transferred from account to account or used while making any purchase. This makes online trading much swifter, more reliable, and easier.

Cryptocurrencies are completely resistant to wear and tear compared to traditional currencies because they are not made of physical materials. This shows that they can be used forever from the production stage, that is, they are long-lasting and durable. Although its market value is variable, its existence is consistently long-lived.

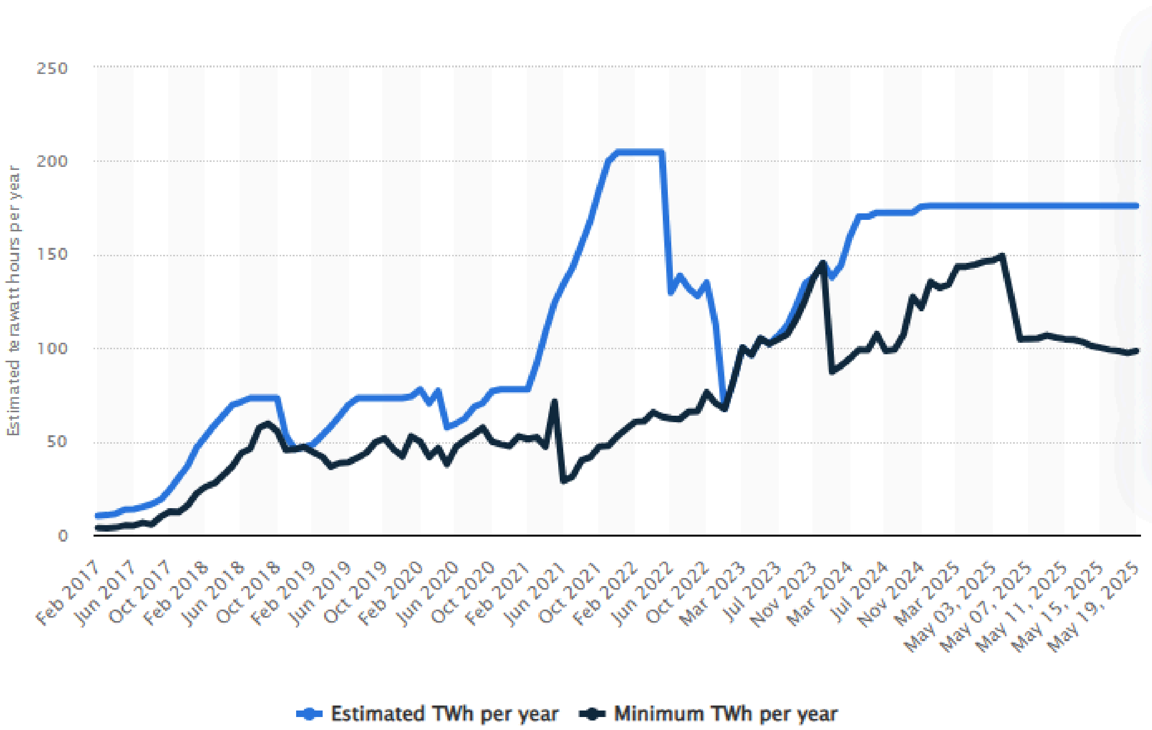
Another feature of cryptocurrencies is their portability. Since they are not created from physical materials and are digital, they are completely trouble-free in terms of transportation. They can be easily used both within and outside the country when making payments or other transactions. This makes them much more accessible.

Security is another of the beneficial aspects that the cryptocurrency world brings with it. Developing blockchain technology makes the use of cryptocurrencies much more secure and resistant to information theft. Additionally, the security level can be increased with encryption or other similar security methods.

Another unique and useful feature of cryptocurrencies is divisibility. Thanks to the divisibility feature of cryptocurrencies, the amount of money you have can be divided into an infinite number of small pieces, which makes the payments much easier. The ability to easily make both minor and sensitive or large amounts of payment makes cryptocurrencies more functional than traditional currencies, thanks to their easy divisibility feature.

3.2.3 Potential Risks Posed by Cryptocurrencies

Cryptocurrencies, in addition to the innovations and conveniences they bring, also involve risks, so users need to be aware of them. If care is not taken, it can lead to major problems, not only loss of money but also cybercrime. Especially the variability of taxes and laws, as well as the variability of exchange rates, are among the factors that cause the problems brought by crypto. In addition, although it is highly secure due to its popularity today, it can lead to a lot of money and identity theft as a result of being the number one target of cyber attacks. Fraud is another of the risks brought by today's crypto world, which occurs due to investors who do not have sufficient information or the lack of legal regulations in some regions.



Cryptocurrency mining raises ethical concerns among environmental activists due to the energy it consumes. To sum up, all the risks that have been stated so far, the limited consumer protection offered by the crypto world leaves unconscious users even more vulnerable. Despite these risks, with the right awareness and education, the crypto world can provide benefits to many investors by giving them a chance.

3.3 Previous Cases Related to Money Laundering via Cryptocurrencies

I. WannaCry Cyber Attack

The WannaCry cyber attack took place in May 2017 and affected many computers around the world. The WannaCry virus locks the files on infected computers and then asks for payment to unlock the files, and of course, cryptocurrencies are used as the payment method in this case. By using cryptocurrency, they wanted to make it difficult for the police to analyze the case. The attack made people understand the importance of antivirus applications and made authorities understand how cryptocurrencies can be used in cyber attacks and the possible risks. Although many computers were infected, they only earned about 51 Bitcoins, about 130 thousand dollars, from 327 people.

II. Mt. Gox

Mt. Gox was created by Jed McCaleb in 2010, initially as a site for the sale and exchange of The Gathering cards by cryptocurrencies, and it quickly became popular. However, the security vulnerabilities on the site, which were notified to the producers but were ignored, brought about the end of the site. 850,000 bitcoins were stolen from the site in a cyber attack in 2014. At the time of the incident, this cyber attack caused a loss of over 450 million to the company and caused it to go bankrupt. This incident once again showed users how important cybersecurity measures are in the crypto world.

III. Bitzlato Cryptocurrency Exchange and Hydra Darknet Marketplace

In 2022, the US Department of Justice charged the Hong Kong-based Bitzlato exchange with money laundering. The exchange's founder, Anatoly Legkodymov, was accused of transferring illegal funds and was arrested in Miami on charges against him. Bitzlato was found to have provided significant funding to the world's largest darknet marketplace called Hydra. Not only did Hydra users conduct more than $700 million in cryptocurrency transactions through Bitzlato, but it also produced ransomware that generated more than $15 million in revenue from users.

IV. OneCoin Ponzi Scheme

The OneCoin Ponzi scheme is a fake cryptocurrency venture founded by Ruja Ignatova. OneCoin has managed to earn billions of dollars from unsuspecting investors around the world. Despite not having a functional blockchain and receiving numerous warnings from authorities around the world, they were able to fool unconscious investors. Ignatova created harsh marketing tactics and false information campaigns to deceive unconscious investors. In doing so, she took advantage of the increasing popularity of cryptocurrencies. Ruja Ignatova disappeared in 2017, while her brother Konstantin Ignatov faced legal proceedings and accepted the guilt of charges related to the scheme.

V. Silk Road

Silk Road was an online marketplace founded in 2011 by Ross Ulbricht under the username Dread Pirate Roberts. The site was known for selling drugs, weapons, and similar illegal items through cryptocurrencies. The site, which operated for 2 years, was closed in 2013 when the government and the police got involved, and eventually Ross was arrested. Later, Ross Ulbrich was sentenced to life imprisonment. This is such a great example of the DarknetMarkets side of the crypto world.

VI. Alexander Vinnik Case

Cryptocurrencies are frequently used in money laundering crimes; another of these cases is the Alexander Vinnik Case. Alexander Vinnik ran the now-closed BTC-e cryptocurrency exchange. BTC-e is known to mediate money laundering by converting the proceeds from many illegal activities, such as hacking, drug trafficking, and ransomware attacks, into cryptocurrencies. The money earned was first converted into cryptocurrencies, and then many money transfers were made, leaving behind a complex network of traces, thus hiding the source of the money. Alexander Vinnik was arrested in Greece in 2017 on charges of money laundering.

3.3.1 Laws

There are penalties and laws for every crime, and there are penalties for money laundering and crimes committed with cryptocurrency. Respectively:

I. Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Laws

Anti-Money Laundering Laws (AMLs) are legal regulations designed to prevent cryptocurrencies from being used to launder money. These regulations make it easier to determine who owns transactions that require identity verification. It also holds the intermediary platforms used responsible and wants high-priced and suspicious transactions to be reported.

II. Know-Your-Customer (KYC) Laws

The Know Your Customer law verifies customers' identity information (name, date of birth, address, etc.) with official documents and analyzes customers' financial and transaction habits and history to determine the risk level of the customer. Of course, by doing so in accordance with national and international regulations, it is the law that enables the prevention of unusual potential fraud and money laundering activities.

III. Tax Laws

Tax laws regarding cryptocurrencies are frequently changing and renewing themselves, depending on the authorities of the countries, especially with the recent rise of crypto in recent years. Although it changes from country to country, countries have a common opinion that a portion of the income earned should be paid as tax, as well as salaries or other investments. This means that when you make any transactions with cryptocurrencies, you will or may be required to pay taxes on those activities. Transactions also need to be reported for taxation, which makes transaction tracking easier. You must report your cryptocurrency transactions to the tax authorities in your country and pay taxes at the rate determined by your country.

IV. Data Protection Laws

Data protection laws are one of the most important laws regarding cryptocurrencies. Thanks to these laws, intermediary platforms increase encryption and other similar security measures to store and protect personal data. Data protection laws not only protect users' privacy rights but also promote trust and legal integrity in the crypto market. It is very important for individuals and businesses in the cryptocurrency industry to have up-to-date information about legal regulations and comply with them, as well as for governments to supervise them.

4. Glossary

Blockchain: a system used to make a digital record of all the occasions a cryptocurrency (= a digital currency such as bitcoin) is bought or sold, and that is constantly growing as more blocks are added.

Transaction: an occasion when someone buys or sells something, or when money is exchanged, or the activity of buying or selling something.

Fiat money: Inconvertible paper money made legal tender by a government decree.

Mixer / Tumbler: Services used to make crypto transactions untraceable.

Remittance: the act of sending payment to someone.

Transaction: an occasion when someone buys or sells something, or when money is exchanged, or the activity of buying or selling something.

Divisible: able to be divided.

Portability: the ability to be easily carried.

5. Question to Ponder

1- What are the frameworks to prevent cryptocurrency usage against darknet markets?

2- Should the anonymity provided by certain cryptocurrencies be considered illegal in international financial law?

3- Can decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms be effectively regulated without compromising their core principles?

4- How can transparency in cryptocurrency transactions be ensured internationally without infringing on individuals' privacy rights to prevent money laundering?

5- Is banning privacy-focused cryptocurrencies (e.g., Monero, Zcash) a justified response to money laundering threats?

6- Can the benefits of cryptocurrency in financial inclusion outweigh its risks in money laundering?

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