**GLOBAL DIGITAL FINANCE ANNOUNCES REGULATORY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR for US and the Americas**

Global Digital Finance (GDF), the global cryptoassets and digital finance industry membership body which promotes best practices for cryptoassets and digital finance technologies, is today announcing the appointment of Carl Schonander as its Regulatory Affairs Director for the US and the Americas.

Carl has extensive experience in technology policy and advocacy, recently working for the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), where he led a team on privacy, intellectual property, emerging technology, and education technology. His previous roles include Director, Office of Intellectual Property Rights at the US Department of State, as well as diplomatic experience within the US Embassy in Spain,

Carl will join US-based GDF board members Jeff Bandman and Sandra Ro, as well as US Policy Director John Collins, to continue to strengthen GDF’s US presence.

**Lawrence Wintermeyer, Executive Co-Chair of Global Digital Finance** said “The GDF membership asked us to prioritise policy maker and regulator outreach this year. We deliver advocacy through regular engagement with regulators and responding to industry and public consultations, and Carl will bring a wealth of experience and insight to support and strengthen the team”.

**Jeff Bandman, Board Member of Global Digital Finance** added “We are delighted that Carl has joined the international regulatory affairs team at GDF to spearhead our US policy work and lead our outreach in Washington and around the country. He will also lead our efforts throughout the Americas where we see enormous potential opportunities for the benefits of digital innovation.”

Carl Schonander**, Regulatory Affairs Director - Americas, said** “Delighted to join the GDF team with a view to working with regulators and legislators to enhance the policy environment for the digital assets industry throughout the Americas”

GDF’s annual members survey reported in the organisation’s 2020 annual report, identified a lack of regulatory clarity as the biggest challenge facing the sector this year. To help to achieve this clarity, the number one priority in 2021 for the GDF community is policy maker and regulatory outreach in the US, Europe, and Asia.

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**For further information**

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**Global Digital Finance**

Global Digital Finance (GDF) is an industry membership body that promotes the adoption of best practices for cryptoassets and digital finance technologies, through the development of conduct standards in a shared engagement forum with market participants, policymakers and regulators. Over 120 global organisations are members of GDF and over 350 industry professionals from around the world have worked on developing the GDF codes of conduct, the only global standard in this emerging sector.