To G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

Building blocks for a roadmap to enhance cross-border payments.

The G20 has rightly made enhancing cross-border payments a priority during the Saudi Arabian Presidency. Faster, cheaper, more transparent, and more inclusive cross-border payment services, including remittances, would have widespread benefits for citizens and economies worldwide, supporting economic growth, international trade, global development and financial inclusion.

I am therefore very pleased to present to you this report from the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI), setting out building blocks for a roadmap to enhance cross-border payments. The FSB welcomes this report, which forms Stage 2 of a three-stage project to develop the roadmap, and which comprehensively and clearly sets out the necessary elements of a response to address the challenges (high costs, low speed, limited access and insufficient transparency) that were identified in the FSB’s Stage 1 report delivered to you in April. The FSB’s membership has expressed its strong support for the approach, which provides elements that can be used flexibly within a roadmap, combining enhancements to the current cross-border arrangements and infrastructures with the exploration of more ambitious yet more uncertain longer-term possibilities.

Enhancing cross-border payments is a multi-dimensional problem, which will require the combined efforts of many public and private sector stakeholders. This is why the commitment of the G20 will be so important to provide impetus and coordination in order that the vision of substantially improved payments arrangements can be achieved.

I commend this report to you for your endorsement and look forward to the FSB delivering to you in October the roadmap as the third and final stage of this deliverable, and then to working with you to take the roadmap forward.

Yours sincerely,

Randal K. Quarles