# **U.S. Monetary Policy: A Global View**



ASSA Annual Meeting "Navigating the Crosscurrents: The Outlook for the Global Economy"

January 3, 2020

Mary C. Daly President & CEO Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

The views expressed here are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of anyone else in the Federal Reserve System.

### The global economic landscape

#### **Slower trend growth**

Trend growth



Sources: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Holston, Laubach, and Williams (2017).

#### Lower neutral real rate of interest (r\*)

Estimates of the neutral real rate of interest: Global and the U.S.



Note: Blue-shaded area reflects range of minimum and maximum rates across four countries in sample (U.S., U.K., Japan, and Germany). Source: Jorda and Taylor (2019).

#### Low global inflation

#### **Core CPI inflation, 12-month change**



Source: OECD.

#### **Slipping inflation expectations**

Longer term mean inflation expectations, 5 years ahead

- US - Euro Area



Note: CPI inflation expectations are plotted for the United States, HICP inflation expectations are plotted for the Euro Area. Source: Blue Chip Economic Indicators, OECD.

- Less conventional policy space
- More room to find full employment
- Fighting inflation from below
- Boosting potential growth is imperative

#### Less conventional policy space

- More room to find full employment
- Fighting inflation from below
- Boosting potential growth is imperative

#### Less room to maneuver in the U.S.

Federal funds rate (set by FOMC; with projections)



Note: Dashed and dotted line segments indicate the median of rate projections from the FOMC's "Summary of Economic Projections" in September 2018 and December 2019. Source: Federal Reserve Board.

#### And even less room outside the U.S.

#### **Central bank policy rates**



Source: Bank for International Settlements.

- Less conventional policy space
- More room to find full employment
- Fighting inflation from below
- Boosting potential growth is imperative

#### Inflation and unemployment tradeoff more muted

Phillips curve across OECD countries by decade



Source: Jorda and Nechio (2019).

#### Be humble about where full employment lies

**SEP Longer Run Unemployment Rate** 



Sources: FOMC Summary of Economic Projections, Haver Analytics.

#### And what a good economy can do

Labor force participation rates



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Haver Analytics.

- Less conventional policy space
- More room to find full employment
- Fighting inflation from below
- Boosting potential growth is imperative

### New framework likely required

- Forward guidance & QE were valuable tools in the crisis, but more may be needed
- Potential makeup strategies include: price level, nominal income, or average inflation targeting
- Most importantly, 2% can't be a ceiling

- Less conventional policy space
- More room to find full employment
- Fighting inflation from below
- Boosting potential growth is imperative

#### Activating the labor force will be critical

Labor force participation rates

- Canada - Germany - United Kingdom - United States



Source: OECD.

## But central banks can't do it alone – Fiscal authorities will need to help



FRBSF.ORG

fУ