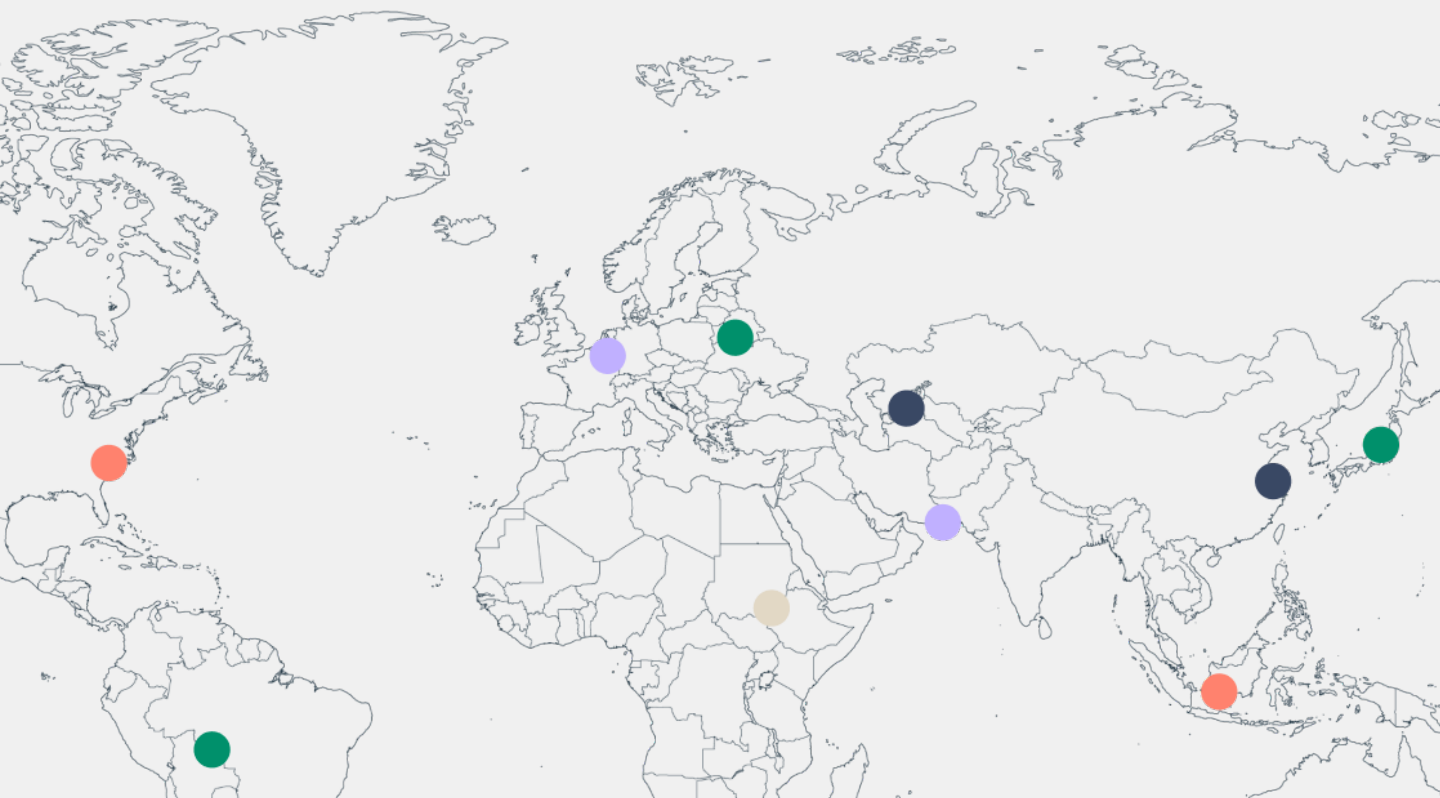


Trusted Connectivity

The Connectivity Concern

Connectivity is of vital geostrategic, economic, and social importance in a world being transformed by digital technology, the green transition, and mounting geopolitical tensions. There is evidence that connectivity investments from malign actors tend to generate a “synergy of failures” as these investments are inversely proportional to the quality of the recipient country’s governance and its environment, while being conducive to ensnaring the recipient country in a debt trap. Europe and its neighbors have experienced the deleterious influence of such investments first hand. Compounding matters are reports that debts accrued under such conditions have been vastly underestimated.

There is **global demand** for physical and digital infrastructure, in both developed and developing countries alike. The EU and its democratic partners already invest multiples of their geopolitical rivals in infrastructure globally. With regard to geopolitics, sustainable economic growth, and the digital transformation, democracies cannot let malign actors be the financiers of first resort, neither at home nor abroad.



The Connectivity Solution

Trusted Connectivity provides the unifying framework that democracies currently lack. The **Tallinn Consensus on Trusted Connectivity** serves as a political declaration that affirms a need for such a framework.

To implement this conceptual framework, Estonia calls on its partners to:

1

Emphasize the nexus between connectivity and **geopolitics**

2

Support and expedite an **EU-US Trusted Connectivity partnership**

3

Support and forge Trusted Connectivity partnerships with **likeminded countries and emerging economies**

4

Better brand and communicate existing public and private Trusted Connectivity investments

5

Support the development of a **branding tool** to certify values-based, standards-based, and high-quality infrastructure projects (e.g. the Blue Dot Network at the OECD)

6

Persuade **multilateral development banks** to adopt the tenets of Trusted Connectivity to ensure that investments into infrastructure are trustworthy and transparent

7

Assist countries in **negotiating better connectivity** investment deals from malign actors through means such as regulatory reform and procurement toolkits

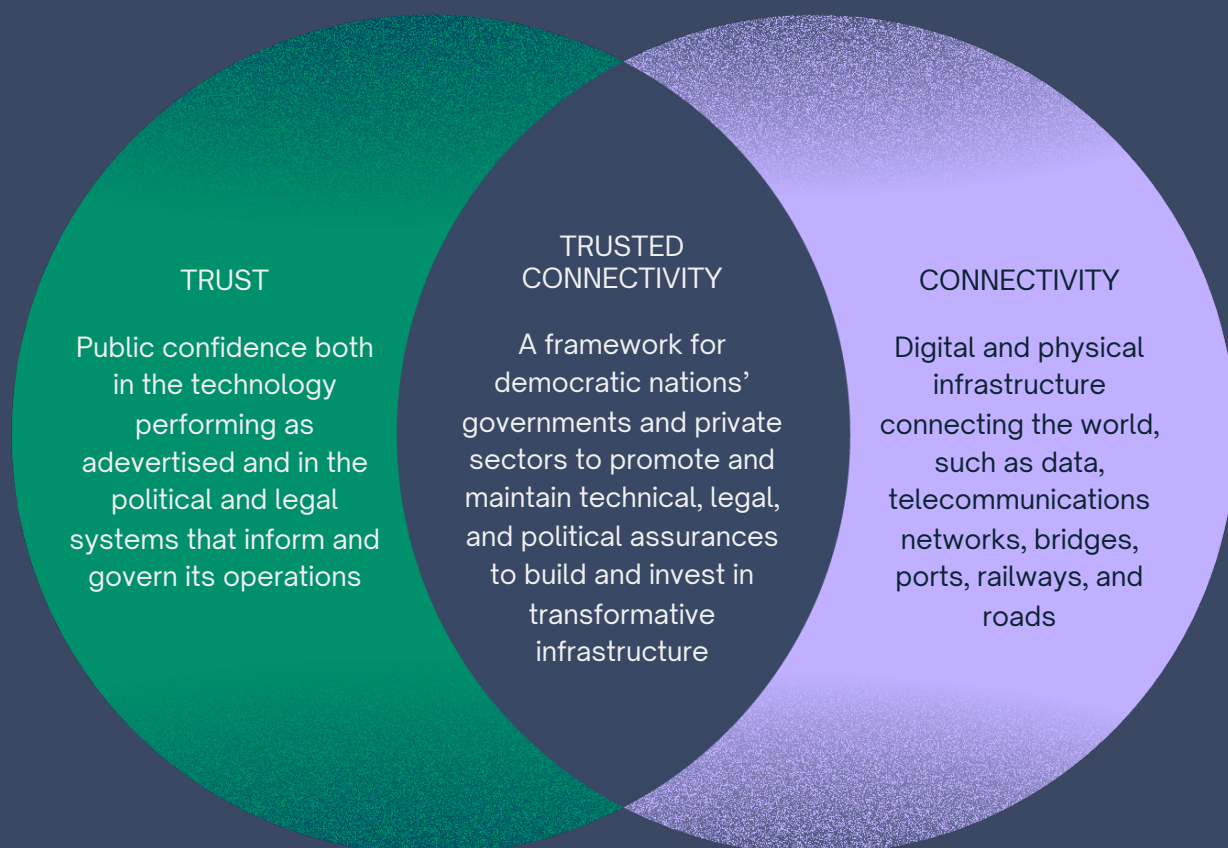
8

Develop a **Trusted Connectivity cybersecurity coalition** to ensure the cyber resilience and reliability of connectivity infrastructure based on democratic values, strategic measures, and benchmarked investments

9

Develop a **Trusted Connectivity data governance coalition** to foster policy alignment on cross-border data flows and data governance among likeminded countries.

Defining Trusted Connectivity



Trusted Connectivity articulates our common vocabulary, understanding, interests, values, and standards. This would ensure that our digital future will advance fundamental freedoms, bolster the international rules-based order, and that we are able to optimize our cooperation on connectivity.

