

Concept note GGF 2025

Day 1 – Wednesday June 11th

State of the World

12:30- 14:30 *Registrations and Welcome Lunch*

14:30-14.40: Welcome remarks

14:40-15:00 Opening speech by **Commissioner Síkela**

15:00-16:30 Panel on the State of the World

16:30-17:15 *Coffee break*

17:15-18:30 Looking at Connectivity through a Geostrategic Lens

18:30-20:00 *Networking reception at the Square*

As of 19:00 High-level dinner with keynote speech by an inspiring speaker hosted by Commissioner Síkela

Day 2 – Thursday June 12th

Strategy

08:30-09:00 *Welcome Coffee*

09:00-09:45 In Conversation with a **leader from EU Member State and a leader from a partner country**

09:45-11:00 Panel on Strategising Partnerships

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

Getting to Work

11:30-13:00	Thematic session 1 – Driving Sustainable and Strategic Transport Connectivity	Thematic session 2 – Two Sides of the Same Coin: Energy Security and Industrial Competitiveness in the EU's Global Gateway Strategy	Thematic session 3 – The Geopolitics of Digital Connectivity
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13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 14:30 *Networking*

14:30-16:00	Scale up sessions – Global Gateway Flagship Projects	Thematic session 4 - Connectivity Interrupted – The Security Dimension	Getting to business with Global Gateway
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16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee Break*

Act 4 – Connecting in a De-Risking World

16:30-18:00 Closing Panel on Connectivity in a De-Risking World

18:00-18:30 Closing remarks

The Global Gateway Forum in more detail

All panels will feature a diverse array of panellists, including ministerial-level representatives from the EU and partner countries, intellectuals, and leaders from business, finance, and industry.

Day 1

Plenary Panel: State of the World

Panellists will provide a "diagnosis" of the State of the World from their perspective. They will examine the state of global affairs and identify key geopolitical trends shaping the landscape, such as economic and demographic shifts or great-power relations. By incorporating authoritative voices from outside Europe, the discussion will offer a broad perspective on the global situation and the EU's role within it.

Plenary Panel: Looking at Connectivity through a Geostrategic Lens

This panel serves as a bridge between the perspectives of political leaders and the discussions on Day 2, featuring a diverse array of voices. Each panellist will deliver a concise contribution from their own perspective.

Day 2

Plenary Dialogue: In Conversation with Leaders

A moderated dialogue between a political leader (Head of State / Government) from an EU Member State and from a partner country about global connectivity aspirations, as seen from their specific geostrategic perspective and economic situation.

Plenary Panel: Strategising Partnerships

This panel, featuring ministerial-level panellists, explores the shared challenges nations face in balancing strategic ambitions with inevitable dilemmas in partnerships. Countries grapple with aligning development goals, industrial interests, and geopolitical strategies in a shifting global landscape. This discussion, focusing on initiatives like the Global Gateway and beyond, will explore how global actors confront these shared dilemmas, emphasising mutual learning and practical solutions to navigate institutional barriers and complex realities.

Motor Block Panels: Getting to work

Thematic panels

A total of **four panels** will explore connectivity partnerships through a thematic lens, each one focusing on a specific strategic topic, examining the interests, challenges, and opportunities that shape EU partnerships in each of these fields, including the perspective of the private sector. By adopting an interest-driven approach, discussions will explore where EU and partners' interests align and diverge, what is at stake on each topic, and how conflicting goals can be navigated.

Three parallel pre-lunch sessions will look at the topics of transport, energy and digital connectivity. A fourth session will take place after lunch and will explore the link between Global Gateway and the EU's instruments and partnerships in the field of security.

Scale up sessions

Parallel sessions will focus on scaling up ca. 12 Global Gateway flagship projects, selected by the Commission (DG INTPA, ENEST and MENA) for their scale, maturity, and potential for impact. These sessions will bring together ministers, business leaders, and key local stakeholders to identify concrete actions for expanding initiatives that can mobilise significant resources and drive collaboration. Building on insights from plenary and regional discussions, the scale-up events will provide dynamic platforms for turning shared understanding into actionable strategies, with tailored approaches for each project's unique context and objectives.

Getting to business with Global Gateway

This interactive session will offer the private sector the possibility to gain a better understanding of Global Gateway.

Closing Panel: Connectivity in a De-Risking World

This ministerial-level panel will look how key players like the EU, the United States and China can strike a balance between reducing dependencies and maintaining the benefits of international cooperation in a world increasingly defined by de-risking and strategic autonomy.