Cross-border connectivity—the movement of data across borders—powers innovation and job growth in all sectors and for people across the world. The statistical evidence is compelling:

Growing the Global Economy

- **2.5 quintillion** data bytes are generated every day\(^1\)
- **60% of global GDP will be digitized** by 2022, with growth in every industry driven by data flows and digital technology\(^2\)

Connecting People to Economic Opportunities

- **6 billion** connected consumers by 2025\(^4,5\)
- **25 billion** connected devices by 2025\(^4,5\)

Benefitting All Sectors

- **75% of the value of data transfers** accrues to industries like agriculture, logistics, and manufacturing\(^6\)
  
For SMEs in Asia—digital tools **reduce export costs by 82%, and transaction times by 29%**\(^7\)

Building International Consensus

- **164 countries** have WTO services commitments, often covering cross-border supply of digital services
- Sharp increase in regional negotiations on cross-border data transfers\(^8\)

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\(^4\) **The Digitization of the World From Edge to Core**, IDC, 2018.


\(^8\) As of 2010, approximately 50 countries (including 21 APEC members, 34 OECD members and various TPP negotiating parties). As of 2020, over 100 countries (including WTO members engaged in the Joint Statement Initiative e-commerce negotiations, African economies engaged in the African Continental FTA digital trade chapter negotiations, as well as the countries engaged in relevant negotiations in ASEAN, RCEP, the Pacific Alliance, and other bilateral and regional fora).