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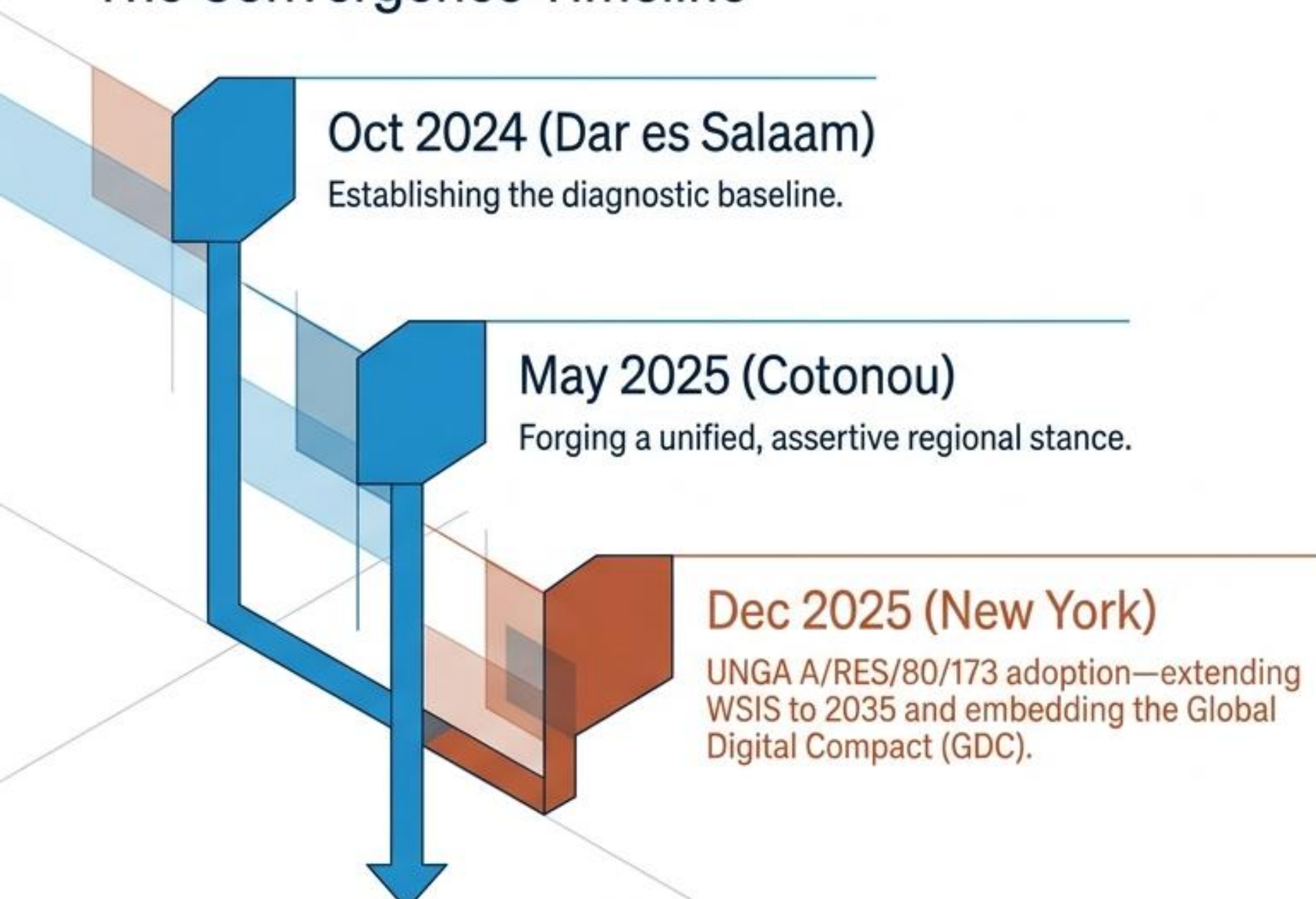
Africa's WSIS+20 Roadmap to 2035: From Policy Architecture to Implementation Discipline

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The 2025 Review is a Turning Point, Not a Ritual

The Convergence Timeline



THE 2025 TURNING POINT: FROM CONVERGENCE TO EXECUTION

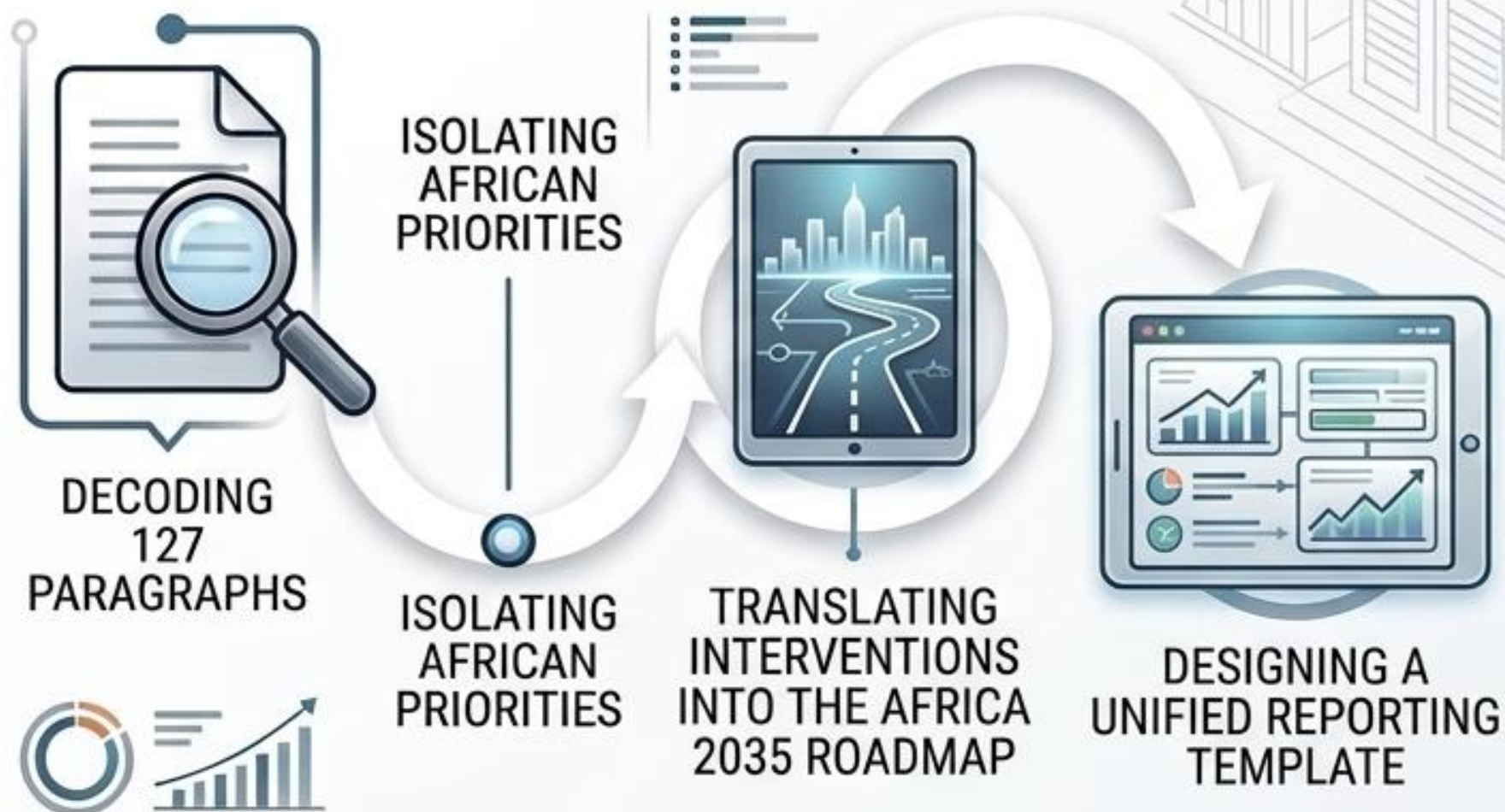


THE MANDATE

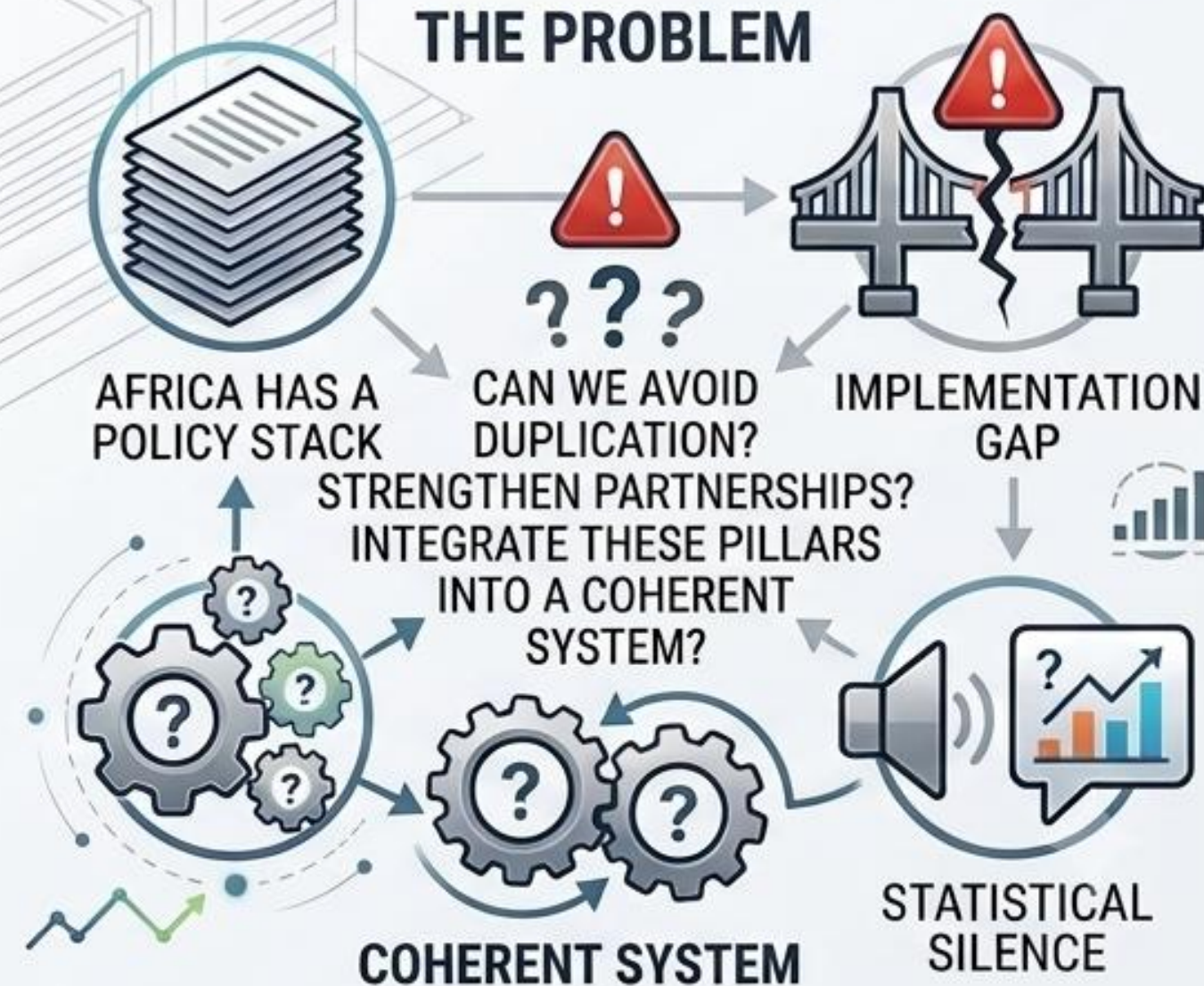
Adopting **UNGA Resolution A/RES/80/173** shifts our focus from policy debate to a coordinated, accelerated continental delivery.



THE STRATEGIC WORKFLOW



THE PROBLEM



Translating the **Resolution** into Nine Thematic Pillars for Africa's Digital Future

1 Universal Inclusion, Connectivity & Energy

Meaningful and affordable connectivity as central; infrastructure resilience.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
Focus on meaningful use, affordability, and the reliability of the power-connectivity nexus.

2 Digital Economy & DPI

Digitalisation as growth driver, trade, public service delivery.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
Translates agenda into DPI lens: digital ID, payments, data exchanges, service rails.

3 Social & Environmental Sustainability

ICT development must support sustainable autressess; address wider environmental footprint.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
Includes e-waste, circular economy pathways, social consequences.

4 Enabling Environment & Digital Sovereignty

Enabling governance, rule of law, trust, and accountability; regulatory coherence.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
Concent with sovereignty over data, content, infrestructure, policy space; especially localization, dependence.

5 Security, Trust & Human Hights

Anchor agenda in human rights, privacy, expression, cybersecurity, online harms.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
Need for safe, trusted, rights, respecting spaces, especially for public services and AI.

6 Capacity Development & Digital Skills

Prioritize capacity, technology, knowledge transfer, digital literary to advanced skills.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
Closing the skills gap at scale: basic digital literary to AI-ready talent.

7 Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Transformative force, implications for digital economy, labor; ethical, transparent, accountable approaches.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
New frontier; extends WSIS into AI era while guarding against exclusion, bias, misuse.

8 Linguistic Diversity & Local Content

Cultural diversity, multilingualism, inclusive content and services; support local participation.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
Mandate for linguistic inclusion, local content production, digital participation for non-dominant language communities.

9 Monitoring, Evaluation & Follow-up

Accountability, implementation review, better evidence to track progress; demand-side surveys.
Africa-Facing Interpretation
Underpins measurement architecture; shift from supply side to modern demand-driven indicator system.

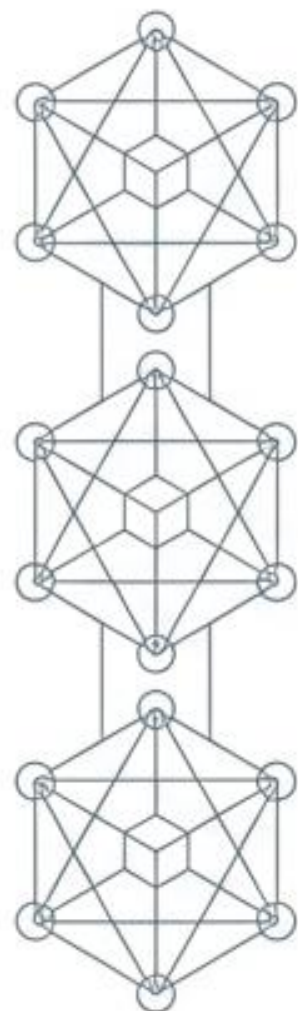
Linkages of the Nine Thematic Pillars-WSIS-SDG-GDC Matrix





Africa's digital implementation is a layered and uneven build-out

Foundational but Fragmented (The Enablers)



Pillar 1 (Connectivity & Energy)

The Energy-Connectivity Nexus

Universal inclusion is underdelivered; affordability and the lack of reliable electricity directly constrain ICT uptake.

Pillar 6 (Capacity & Skills)

The 90% Deficit

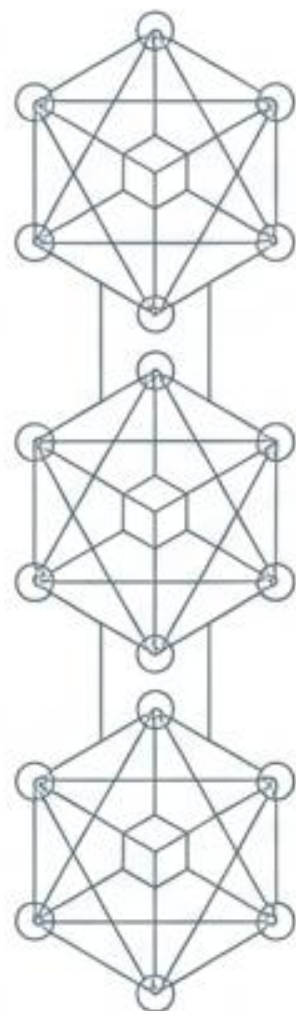
A severe undersupply of advanced technical talent paired with low basic digital literacy across the continent.

Pillar 9 (Monitoring & Follow-up)

The Statistical Silence

Reliance on legacy supply-side metrics; a lack of demand-side data makes the other 8 pillars untrackable.

Strengthening but Uneven (The Frameworks)



Pillar 2 (Digital Economy & DPI)

Promising Design, Low Density

Strategic frameworks (AFCFTA, PAPSS, ID) exist but lack the density and consistency required for broad transformation.

Pillar 4 (Enabling Environment)

Sovereignty in Progress

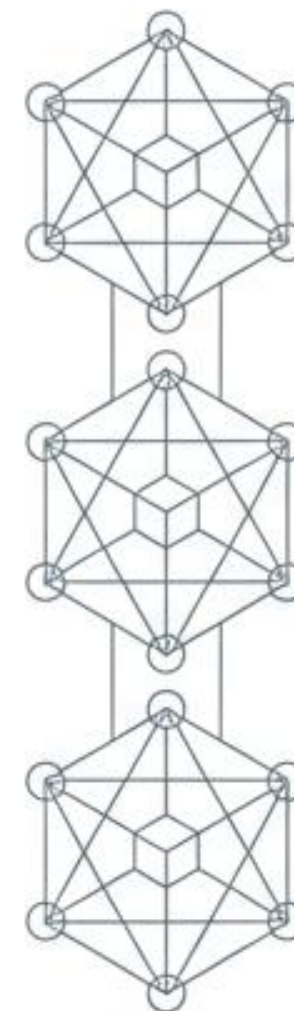
Instruments like the AU Data Policy Framework are adopted, but domestic capacity and enforcement lag.

Pillar 5 (Security & Trust)

Fragile Trust

Cyber frameworks (Malabo Convention) are adopted, but uneven operational capacity makes trust a critical bottleneck.

Emerging Frontiers (The Aspirations)



Pillar 7 (Artificial Intelligence)

Strategic Acceleration Needed

A widening gap between high policy ambition and real operational capacity (compute, data sovereignty).

Pillar 8 (Linguistic & Local Content)

Structural Exclusion

Over 2,000 African languages remain largely excluded from global LLMs and the wider digital ecosystem.

Pillar 3 (Sustainability)

Rhetoric Over Design

E-waste and green digital pathways are consistently overshadowed by immediate economic imperatives.



Africa has successfully moved beyond pure policy intention, but execution remains a "layered and uneven build-out" constrained by institutional discipline and financing.



A Substantial Continental Policy Base Already Exists

The constraint is no longer a lack of normative frameworks; it is sequencing, coordination, and domestication capacity.



The Bottleneck:

Policy density has outpaced operational capacity.

Without a coordination architecture, the most promising initiatives remain parallel tracks rather than a unified system.



Regional Momentum Assessment: Where Scaling is Needed

Domain	Current Maturity	Execution Momentum	Structural Bottlenecks
Digital trade and payments	PAPSS & AfCFTA Protocol	✓ Execution-ready	Scaling interoperability.
Digital Identity	AU Interoperability Framework	↓☰ Scale-up priority	Fragmented systems; 500 million unregistered.
Connectivity and education infrastructure	National Broadband Plans & STEM curriculum	⚙️ Execution engines	Low rural coverage, limited digital literacy.
Cybersecurity, trust, and data governance	AU Data Policy Framework & Malabo Convention	Scale-up priority institutional consolidation	Weak enforcement, high infrastructure costs, lack of national CERTs.
Artificial intelligence	Continental AI Strategy	🚀 Strategic acceleration	Severe compute/data gaps, ~3% of global talent pool.
Monitoring and evaluation	SDG Tracking & Continental KPI dashboards	✓ Execution-ready	Data siloing, weak analytical capacity.

AFRICA 2035 DIGITAL IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP: PHASE 1

2026

2027

PHASE 1: ALIGN & BASELINE (2026–2027)

STRATEGIC PURPOSE: Translate UNGA Resolution A/RES/80/173 into a coordinated continental implementation architecture with common targets, indicators, and responsibilities.

CORE PRIORITIES (NINE PILLARS): Align WSIS Action Lines, Global Digital Compact, Agenda 2063, AU Digital Transformation Strategy, AU data policy, AfCFTA digital priorities, and AI governance into one reporting structure; baselines for all nine pillars; agree a continental scorecard and common national reporting template.

MAIN DELIVERY LEVERS: ECA, AU Commission, RECs, AfCFTA Secretariat, Member States, development partners.

EVIDENCE OF MOMENTUM: ECA is convening WSIS+20 outcomes implementation sessions towards the adoption of a joint Africa 2035 Digital Implementation Roadmap and harmonized reporting framework.

KEY GAPS TO CLOSE: Fragmented reporting, uneven ownership, weak comparability across countries, and limited baseline data for several pillars.

QUICK WINS: Publish baseline dashboard; standardize reporting templates; launch digital peer-learning forums for regulators; onboard ministries and regulators into unified reporting.

CORE KPIS: Reporting compliance rate; indicator completeness rate; baseline publication on schedule; share of countries adopting the common template.

AFRICA 2035 DIGITAL IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP: PHASE 2

2028

2029

2030

PHASE 2: BUILD THE RAILS (2028–2030)

STRATEGIC PURPOSE: Put foundational public infrastructure in place so transformation can scale across borders and sectors.

CORE PRIORITIES (NINE PILLARS): Expand broadband and energy-enabled connectivity; operationalize interoperable digital ID, payments, and data exchange; strengthen cyber trust, digital skills and public-sector implementation capacity; launch the proposed Africa AI Fund.

MAIN DELIVERY LEVERS: AU interoperability work, PAPSS, AU digital policy instruments, national infrastructure programs, and digital skills initiatives.

EVIDENCE OF MOMENTUM: PAPSS is now live in 19 countries and connects more than 160 commercial banks and over 15 national switches; digital ID, payments, and data-exchange pilots are also advancing in several countries, indicating that the DPI stack is moving from design into deployment.

KEY GAPS TO CLOSE: Infrastructure fragmentation, affordability constraints, uneven legal harmonization, low interoperability, and limited public-sector capability.

QUICK WINS: Review ICT taxes; design targeted affordability measures; pilot cross-border trade and remittance use cases; map skills gaps; train public-sector digital champions.

CORE KPIS: Internet usage rate; broadband affordability index; PAPSS transaction volumes; share of civil servants digitally certified.

AFRICA 2035 DIGITAL IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP: PHASE 3

2031

2032

2033

PHASE 3: INTEGRATE SERVICES (2031–2033)

STRATEGIC PURPOSE: Move from system-building to integrated service delivery and wider everyday use.

CORE PRIORITIES (NINE PILLARS): Embed digital infrastructure into public services, trade, finance, education, health, agriculture, and social protection; mainstream multilingual access and local content; strengthen sustainability requirements in digital procurement.

MAIN DELIVERY LEVERS: Public procurement, shared platforms, regional mutual recognition, and service interoperability frameworks.

EVIDENCE OF MOMENTUM: Several countries are already extending digital identity, payments, and data-sharing systems into public-service delivery, while regional initiatives are creating the institutional basis for wider service integration.

KEY GAPS TO CLOSE: Pilots that do not scale, weak last-mile access, underdeveloped local content ecosystems, and uneven cross-sector coordination.

QUICK WINS: Fund translation layers; require multilingual user interfaces in procurement; introduce green procurement clauses; prioritize high-demand service integration use cases; run trust audits on identity and payment systems.

CORE KPIS: Languages supported in public services; number of priority services interoperable across agencies; share of projects with sustainability criteria; privacy and trust issues resolved within set timeframes; launch of Africa AI fund.

AFRICA 2035 DIGITAL IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP: PHASE 4

2034

2034

2035

PHASE 4: INSTITUTIONALIZE & CORRECT (2034–2035)

STRATEGIC PURPOSE: Make implementation routine, auditable, and self-correcting.

CORE PRIORITIES (NINE PILLARS): Establish continent-wide performance management, public dashboards, peer review, corrective action for lagging states, and sustainable financing mechanisms.

MAIN DELIVERY LEVERS: Annual ministerial reviews, public scorecards, financing conditionalities, and institutionalized peer pressure through AU and RECs.

EVIDENCE OF MOMENTUM: Growing use of public scorecards, peer review mechanisms, and annual reporting cycles shows early movement toward more routine continental accountability.

KEY GAPS TO CLOSE: Weak accountability, poor continuity, inadequate feedback loops, and limited mechanisms for converting policy into measurable delivery.

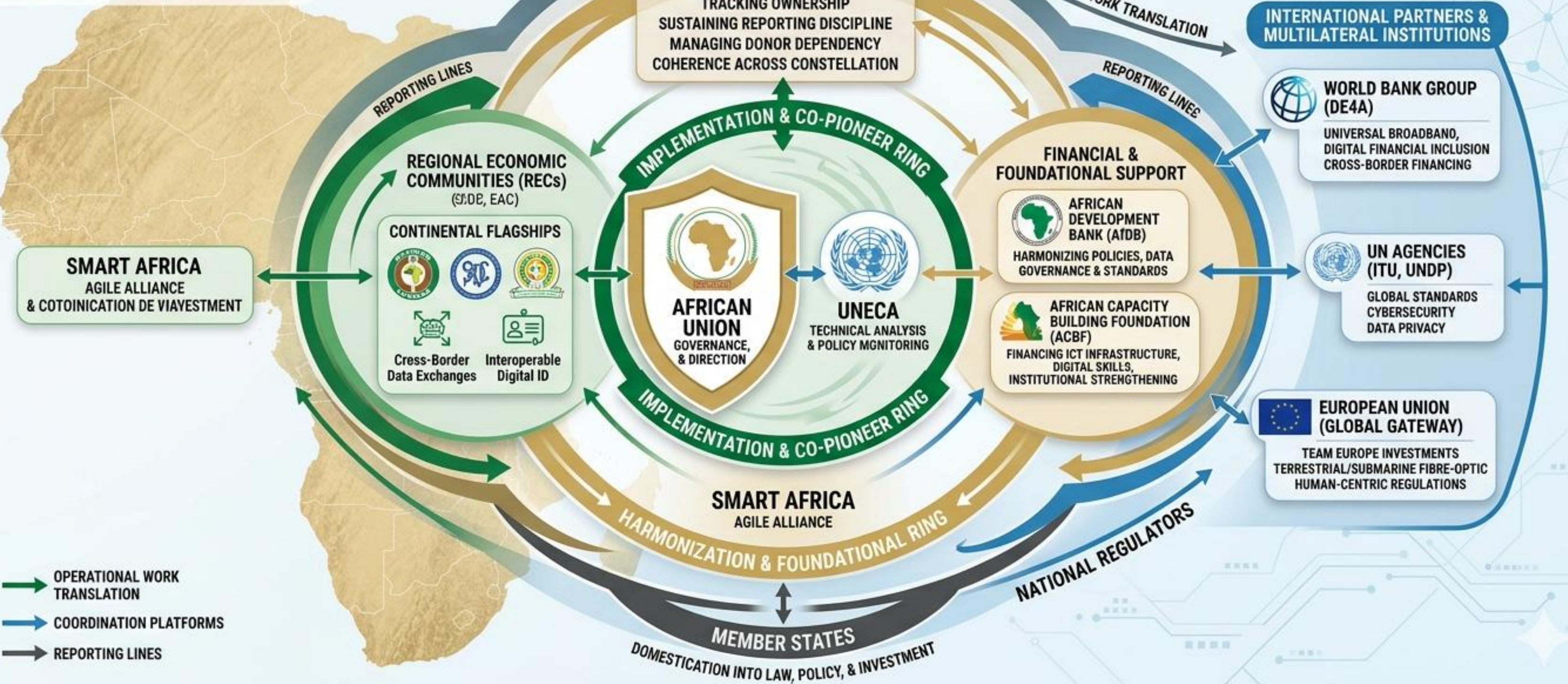
QUICK WINS: Publish breach-response protocols; institutionalize awareness campaigns; embed digital literacy in teacher education; draft or update AI strategies and sandbox rules.

CORE KPIS: Scorecard publication timeliness; number of policy corrective actions taken; AI readiness score; implementation rate of agreed continental commitments; deployment of the Africa AI Fund.

AFRICA'S DIGITAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION ARCHITECTURE: A MULTI-LAYERED NETWORK

AFRICA'S DIGITAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION ARCHITECTURE

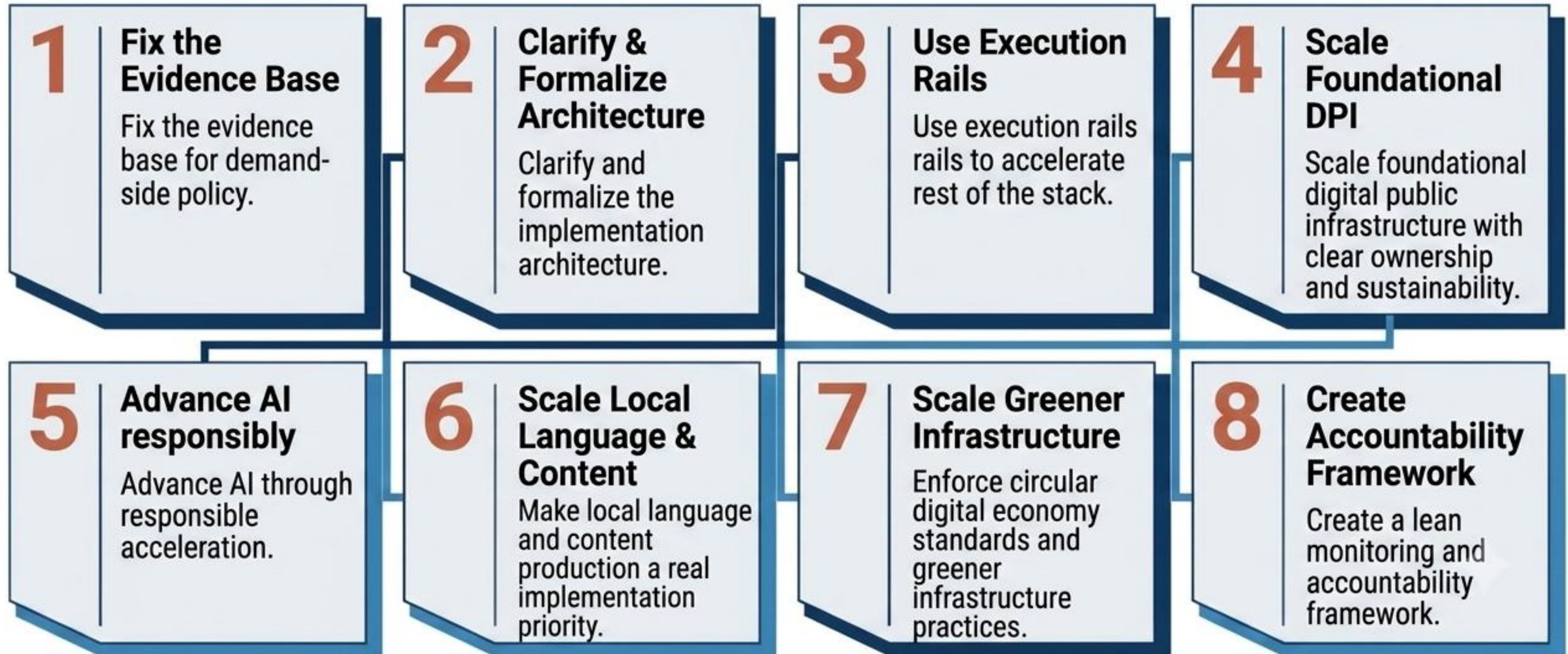
- OPERATIONAL WORK TRANSLATION
- COORDINATION PLATFORMS
- REPORTING LINES





The Action Agenda: 8 Recommendations to 2035

An implementation-focused action plan designed to solve delivery bottlenecks and secure Africa's digital sovereignty.



“The success of Africa’s digital transformation will be judged not by the number of declarations adopted, but by the extent to which political commitment is translated into executable code and scalable infrastructure.”

Thank you

Towards a Sovereign, Inclusive, and Integrated Digital Africa.



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa