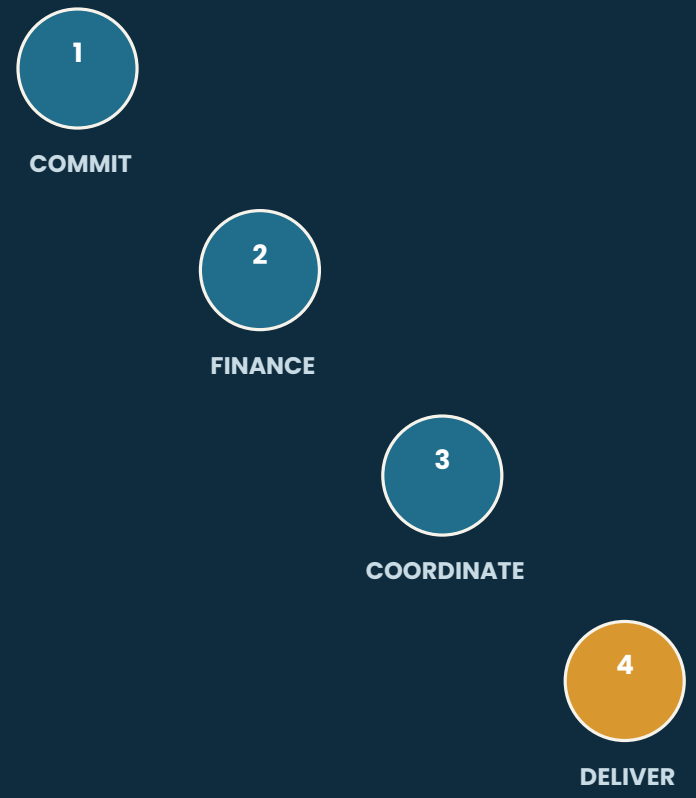
TWELFTH FORUM ON AFRICAN STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

From recommendations to implementation

Evidence points to slow implementation, persistent financing constraints, and urgent capacity needs.



By Angela Kiconco, African Centre for Statistics, ECA

Addis Ababa (hybrid) • 20 October 2026

EVIDENCE BASE

What the evidence can and cannot tell us

Two complementary questionnaires provide an indicative, not comprehensive, picture.

32 of 54

members responded • 59% response rate

12

institutional responses: ECA, 5 development partners and 6 regional institutions

22

members did not respond

READ THE RESULTS WITH CARE

Member findings n = 32
Partner findings n = 12
Development-partner subgroup n = 5
Regional-institution subgroup n = 6

Two survey items were omitted

01 **Member awareness and use of the NSDS tools repository**

02 **Training-of-trainers programmes within regional economic communities**

Recommendation: reinstate both questions in the next reporting cycle.

EXECUTIVE SYNTHESIS

Three conclusions from the evidence

The implementation problem is not one-dimensional. Delivery, financing and alignment reinforce one another.

01 DELIVERY

Implementation remains slow

Only 2 of 32 members report implementation above 80%; 11 remain at an early stage.

02 FINANCING

Political support is not becoming budgets

66% rate political will high or very high; only 28% report a fully domestically funded NSDS.

03 ALIGNMENT

Support is not aligned with emerging demand

Data science and AI is the largest reported training need: 27 need it, against 5 reporting training received.

Implication: financing, capacity and accountability must be addressed as one delivery agenda.

OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation remains slow

Only 2 of 32 members report implementation above 80%; one in three remains at an early stage.

Members by reported level of implementation • n = 32



Above 80%	**2 members**
60–80%	**9 members**
30–60%	**10 members**
Early stage	**11 members**

PARTNER SELF-RATING

2.17 / 4

Average across 12 institutions

Combined StatCom-Africa IX and FASDEV XI rating. This measure cannot be decomposed and is not directly comparable with the member distribution.

Shared implementation challenge

Source: Member-State questionnaire (n=32); Partner Accountability Questionnaire (n=12).

ADVOCACY AND FINANCING

Political support is not yet translating into funding

The sharpest contrast is between reported political will and fully funded national strategies.

THE TRANSLATION GAP

66%

Rate political will as high or very high

28%

report a fully domestically funded NSDS

56%

systematically use statistical products to build political will

22%

have an operational innovative financing mechanism

0 of 5

development partners report an operational mechanism

Discussion question **What will convert reported political support into predictable national budget allocations?**

Source: Member-State questionnaire (n=32); Partner Accountability Questionnaire (5 development partners).

TOOLS FOR NSDS IMPLEMENTATION

Guidelines delivered; Observatory under development

Two related requests with distinct and clear statuses.

COMPLETED

Updated NSDS guidelines

New guidelines mainstreaming the ECA Strategic Toolkit into NSDS design and review have been jointly developed and published.

UNDER DEVELOPMENT

NSDS Observatory

PARIS21 is developing a single access point with a dashboard, guidelines, country profiles, impact stories and an NSDS library. First version expected for the early-December meetings.

NOT YET MEASURED

Member awareness and use

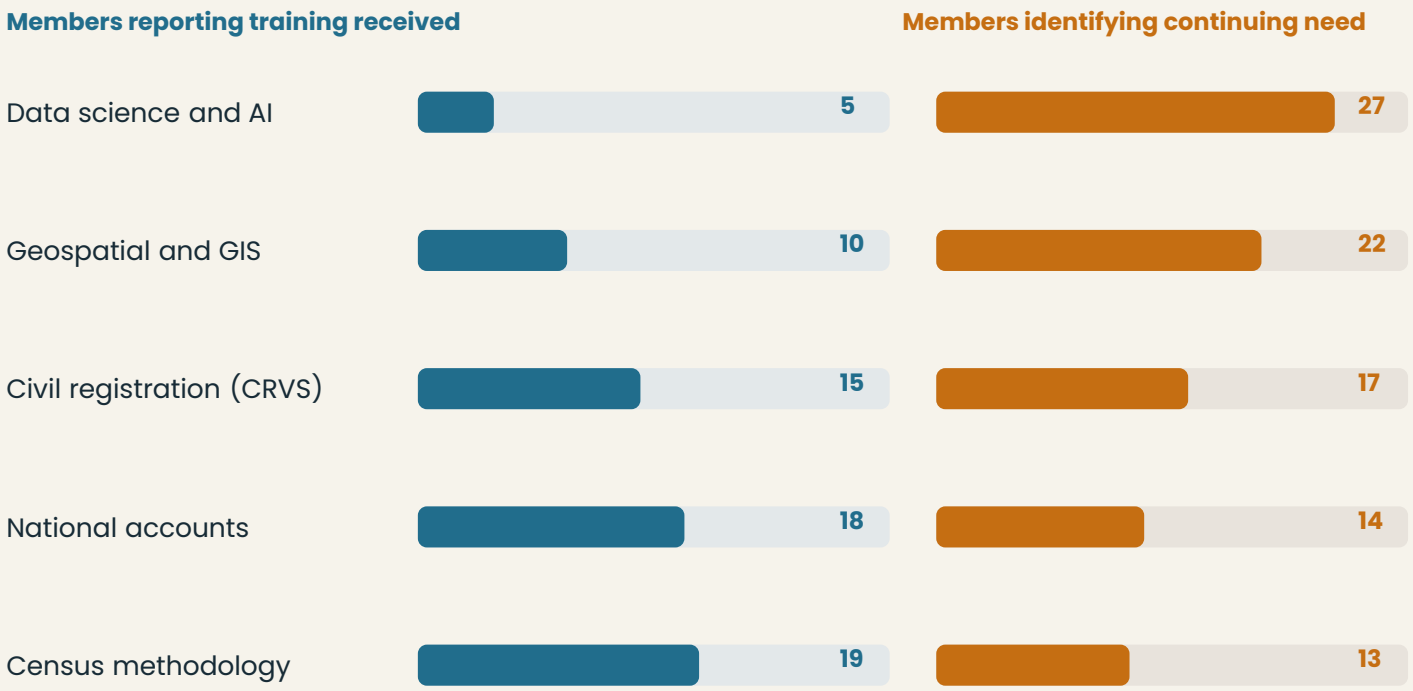
The member survey omitted this question. Awareness and use cannot be assessed until the platform is available and the question is reinstated.

Decision request **ECA and PARIS21 will communicate the access point and user guidance after release, and measure member awareness and use in the next reporting cycle.**

STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING

AI and data science are the largest capacity gap

Counts refer to responding members, not to individual trainees; received training and continuing need can overlap.



TRAINING VOLUME IS UNEVEN

41% trained more than 50 NSO staff in the preceding year

13% trained only 1 to 5 staff

Recommended action

Rebalance existing training portfolios toward AI and data science while assessing additional resource requirements.

Source: Member-State questionnaire (n=32); partner submissions.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Institutional uptake is limited; demand for hybrid access is high

Effectiveness and future design point in different directions.

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

56%

rated FASDEV XI useful or very useful; 22% rated it not useful at all

13%

fully reflect the communiqué in work programmes; 38% partially and 28% not at all

FUTURE DESIGN

88%

support hybrid participation

78%

selected AI and data innovation as a priority theme

Member follow-through

Only 4 of 32 members fully reflect the communiqué in institutional work programmes.

Regional response

Among six responding regional institutions, STATAFRIC alone reported concrete action on both inclusivity and online modernization.

Design implication: retain hybrid access and strengthen mechanisms that translate Forum recommendations into work programmes.

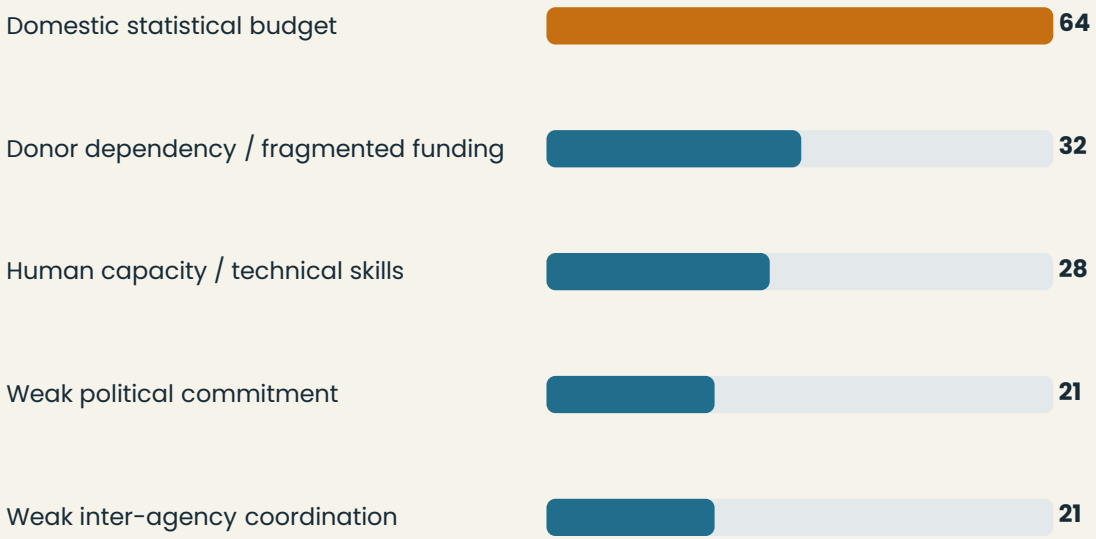
Source: Member-State questionnaire (n=32); Partner Accountability Questionnaire (n=12).

BARRIERS

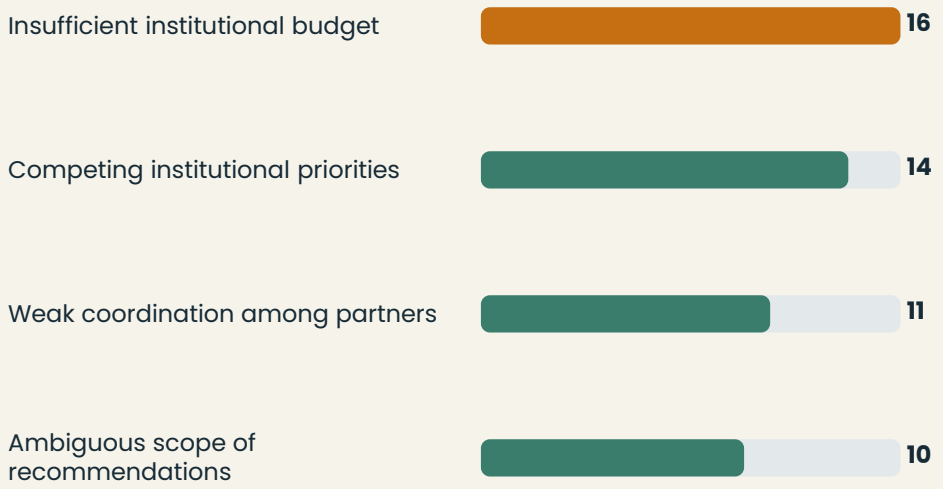
Members emphasize resources; partners also emphasize coordination

Scores weight the first-, second-, and third-ranked barriers. Magnitudes are not directly comparable across respondent groups.

WHAT MEMBERS SAY • n = 32



WHAT PARTNERS SAY • n = 12



Interpretation **Financing remains central, but coordination, competing priorities and role clarity must have equal standing in the delivery response.**

Source: Member-State questionnaire (n=32); Partner Accountability Questionnaire (n=12).

FOR DECISION

Proposed two-year accountability framework

Proposed leads and milestones for discussion • 2027–2028

	COMMITMENT	PROPOSED LEAD	MILESTONE
1	**Establish implementation baselines**	ECA secretariat + members + partners	**Q1 2027**
2	**Publish NSDS Observatory access point and user guidance**	ECA + PARIS21	**After first release**
3	**Develop a coordinated AI and data-science training offer**	ECA + regional institutions + partners	**2027 work programmes**
4	**Report domestic financing against agreed indicators**	Participating national statistical offices	**Annual update**
5	**Map partner roles and active support**	ECA + partners	**Mid-2027**
6	**Issue an interim implementation update**	ECA secretariat	**Before next Forum**

Forum decision: agree the commitments, assign accountable leads and adopt a follow-up mechanism through 2028.