Once the need to develop a strategy is acknowledged and the main principles, steps and constraints linked with the NSDS process understood, preparation work may start. An official commitment at the highest political level is sought; a constituency and a design team have to be put in place; a roadmap has to be designed setting out what needs to be done, by whom, when, and how it will be financed; and the document of the roadmap has to be officially endorsed and shared with key stakeholders.

**Official commitment in practice**

**Who and When**
This will be done according to the local situation in the countries. This commitment may be made through a decision at council of ministers level, by the minister in charge of statistics or through the national parliament.

It is the same authority that will be endorsing the Roadmap for the design of the NSDS (See ROADMAP-Elaborating the Roadmap in practice).

**How**
Some preparatory advocacy work may be necessary: a meeting could be organized by the NSO or other high representative authorities of the NSS with the government for explaining again the importance of having a national statistical system matching the national data requirements. This should result into the preparation of a document which will be used as the basis of the decision to be endorsed.

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