

“DIGITAL INNOVATION AND PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN AFRICA: OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

- **Digital Innovation is vital and has already created a deep impact in Africa as shown by the following statistics:**

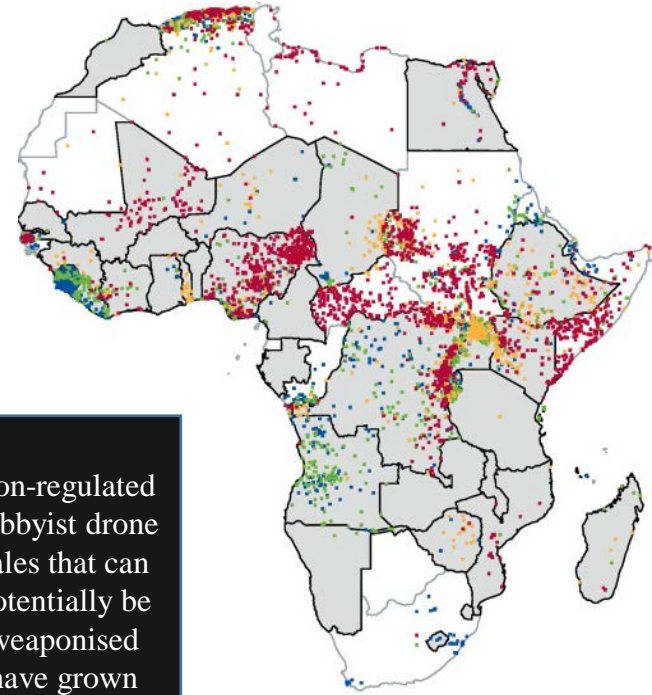
30% of the population has access to the internet

48% of global deaths due to terrorism using technology

West Africa harbours the fastest growing and deadliest violent extremists; Global Terrorism Index 2022

50% of the ongoing twelve (12) UN Peace Operations are domiciled in Africa

Non-regulated hobbyist drone sales that can potentially be weaponised have grown from US\$14billion in 2018 to a projected US\$43billion in 2024



OPPORTUNITIES IN DIGITAL INNOVATIONS FOR PSOs

Digital Innovation Opportunities for Peace Support Operations in Africa

a. Robust Force Multiplier



b. Situational Awareness Enhancement



c. Countering Abuse by Terrorists

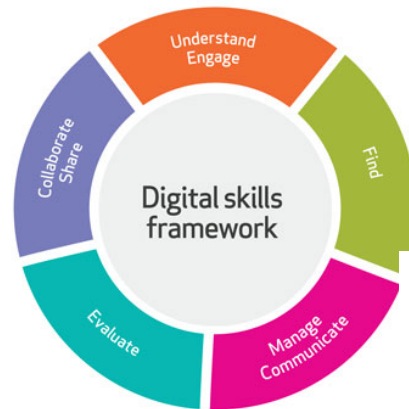


LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

In spite of the opportunities presented by digital innovation for PSOs, experts have underscored these critical limitations and challenges.

Environment-Access and framework

Training deficits



Budgetary Constrains

Absence of basic Skills

THE WAY FORWARD

- **Digital innovations** and new technology are increasingly recognized and acknowledged as force multipliers in PSOs, as they significantly enhance mandate implementation.
- Thus, **PSOs in Africa** should leverage opportunities inherent in digital innovations, while minimizing risks and addressing challenges. These will entail:



THE WAY FORWARD

- a) Targeted Policy and Institutional Frameworks
- b) Robust Investment in Research, Training, Capacity Building and Infrastructure
- c) Commitment to Multilateral Cooperation and Partnerships



CONCLUSION

APSTA pursuant to its mandate of standardization of ASF/PSOs training across Africa, is facilitating efforts to leverage digital innovation to improve capacity for PSOs.

- In 2020, motivated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the adverse impact of the lockdown on in-person training, APSTA collaborated with the *United Nations Systems Staff College (UNSSC)*, to train experts drawn from Training Centres across Africa, on E-Learning Design, aimed at helping them to migrate training to on-line platforms, as much as possible.
- Currently, APSTA is engaging experts from training and research institutions as well as from missions across the continent, on *leveraging digital innovations to enhance PSOs*. The intended outcomes will be communicated to appropriate departments of the African Union as well as the United Nations.
- It has therefore become imperative for the continent to leverage these opportunities to change the face of PSOs and augment the capacities of our training centres.