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Editorial Note

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African Journal of Strategy, Defence and Security Studies (AJSDSS)

I am delighted that after the successful launching of the first issue of the African Journal of Strategy, Defense and Security Studies (AJSDSS) in June 2025, that we are able to publish this second issue. Since the launching of the Journal, we have received an impressive number of manuscripts from a wide range of researchers from different countries and disciplines on issues related to security governance in Africa. After the launching of the first issue of the Journal, we received a total of 30 papers submitted to the Journal with 13 papers have been accepted, 8 papers have been cleared and ready to be published, 6 papers under revision and the remaining papers are under review. This impressive number of submissions to the Journal is a manifestation of the unmet research demand signals in the security domain that affects our daily lives as individuals, communities and nations.

This issue is built on some of the lessons learned from the first issue in terms of timely editorial decision-making process and timely feedback to the authors on their submitted papers. In addition, this issue reflects the growing contribution of authors from various regions of Africa and that makes it truly an African Journal. With this second issue, the Journal has started its long journey of nurturing a rigorous African academic agency in advancing the African security by sustaining a trusted platform for evidence-based research-policy dialogue and sharing of experiences and

knowledge on security governance between and among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

This second issue of the Journal came at the time when our world is witnessing drastic global and regional security challenges and threats but also with opportunities availed by the rapid advancement of technology. On the top of these security challenges is the climate change. The 2025 Climate Risk Index (CRI) shows that the extreme weather events such as scorching heat, heavy rainfalls, raging wildfires, deadly floods, and devastating storms are too common in recent years in terms of frequency and intensity causing mounting human and economic toll (Germanwatch, 2025). For example, the 2025 CRI shows more than 9,400 extreme weather events were recorded between 1993 to 2022 and that resulted in more than 765,000 lives were lost and direct economic losses of nearly USD 4.2 trillion.

The 2025 CRI reveals that the Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for two-thirds (43 countries) of the “Red Zone” countries (65 countries) identified in a 2025 index as being at the highest risk from climate change (Ndunge, 2025). The climate change constitutes a major security threat in Africa by exacerbating resource competition over scarce water and arable land, acting as a "threat multiplier" by intensifying existing political, ethnic, and economic tensions as well as causing displacement and migration, disruption of economy by damaging infrastructure, obliterating rural livelihoods, and hindering economic growth (Brown and Crawford, 2009).

The war between Russia and Ukraine has emerged as a significant threat to global security and stability, with far-reaching implications for African stability and security. The war is reshaping the normative global security system with clear signs of the polarization of the global system and the renewed Cold War with the looming risk of the nuclear World War III (Akita, 2024). For example the Ukraine war has largely contributed to the setting of the Doomsday Clock at 90 seconds to midnight, as it has increased the risk of nuclear escalation and continues to loom as a large source of nuclear risk in the world (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 2024). This war has also escalated the arms race and caused drastic increase in the military spending that is crowding out investment in social services, a recipe for social unrest and instability in Africa.

In addition, the Ukraine war has caused unprecedented serious economic, political, and security consequences. This is manifested in rising commodity prices, energy shocks and the emerging geopolitical consequences as shown by the weakening role of the UN Security Council with the growing polarisation among its permanent five members (Pantuliano, 2022). For Africa, the Ukraine war has serious economic

consequences across Africa through trade disruptions, commodity price increases, and tighter financial conditions (Raga et al., 2024). It is estimated that a 10% shock in oil, food and fertiliser prices induced by the Ukraine war may reduce Africa's annual GDP by \$7 billion causing an increase in interest rates and higher borrowing costs for many African countries (Raga et al., 2024:38).

Other challenge that is facing the security governance in Africa is the surge in coup d'états and autocracies and regression in democracy. Since 2019, there has been a remarkable resurgence of abrupt unconstitutional seizures of power in recent years in sub-Saharan Africa with unusual frequencies (Carbone and Pellegata, 2025). Since 2019, ten (10) military coups occurred in eight countries including the recent military coup in Madagascar, marking it unprecedented surge in the level of military coups in a very short period of time since the early 1990s. While there are many drivers for such surge in military coups, the prominent drivers include a mix of international and domestic dynamics, a web of interwoven governance deficit issues and a growing intolerance for regimes that misrule and pursue their self-interests under the guise of democratic elections and their deliberate betrayal of the social contract with their citizens (ISPI, 2023).

In addition to the resurgence of the military coups, there is a striking surge in the civil protests led by informed, well connected and educated youth; the late millennials and Generation Z with potential of driving democratic consolidation across Africa. Despite the Gen Z are advancing new democratic ideals beyond voting, they have a greater willingness to tolerate military intervention when elected leaders abuse power, as manifested in supporting some recent military coups (AFRO, 2024). This growing population of unemployed youth pose persistent security threat if their needs are not sufficiently addressed.

Besides the aforementioned security challenges, the African security landscape has been disrupted significantly by the rapid advancement of technology with profound impact on African security dynamics. Rapid increases in access to technology and use of technology in Africa have potentials of improving the delivery of security to citizens, strengthening security infrastructure and capabilities, enhancing access to public information, and increasing demand for transparency and accountability. With advanced technology, the security in Africa can be strengthened by improving early warning systems, improving border and maritime surveillance, and enhancing cybersecurity to combat digital threats as well as tools like satellite imagery, AI-powered analytics, and advanced surveillance could strengthen the monitoring of remote areas, borders and

transnational organized crime, early detection of threats like illegal mining and piracy, predicting potential conflicts and enhancing everyday policing (ACCORD, 2024).

However, such opportunities presented by emerging technologies could also further cyber-enabled criminality, aggravating the broader threat posed by transnational organized crime, which is rapidly increasing on the continent (ENACT, 2023) as well as disrupting critical infrastructure and financial systems, undermining security, stability, and government operations (ACCORD, 2021). In particular, technologies powered by AI and emerging technologies play destructive roles as they could be used in infringing on privacy rights through persecuting, surveilling, monitoring of citizens, targeting specific groups during disinformation operations during elections as well as escalating community conflicts, causing symbolic violence through biometric technologies and revival of colonial governance practices such as colonial models of pacification, militarization and control (ibid).

This second issue of the Journal has a total of nine (9) papers that attempt to provide better understanding within the context of the security challenges discussed earlier. The papers in this second issue of the Journal are regrouped and arranged in this issue into three categories: national, regional and global focus and a brief synopsis of each paper is provided.

The National Focus Papers: The second issue of the Journal begins with four (4) papers that focus on national security issues.

The first paper is by Sharon Hofisi ORCID, Tapiwa G.L Nherera and Matthew Mare and it analyses “*The transformed role of security-related intelligence in upholding constitutionalism in Zimbabwe*”. The paper examines how intelligence services under Zimbabwe’s 2013 Constitution could shift from seemingly opaque, executive-driven models to legally anchored, publicly accountable institutions as contemplated by the Constitution. Based on a thorough analysis that is grounded on the constitutional design theory of regulation, the research finds that a reconfiguration of Zimbabwe’s intelligence architecture based on constitutional intelligence design is needed to promote rule of law, transparency in intelligence operations, civilian oversight of security institutions, and human rights safeguards. The implications of the findings bear on how Zimbabwe’s rights constitutionalism and evolving constitutional identity improves Zimbabwe’s democratic security sector governance and progressive constitutionalism as contemplated by the Constitution. Their work is a reminder of the need for reforming intelligence agencies to contribute effectively to advancing democratic security sector governance.

This paper is then followed by the second paper by Chinekepebi Ngozi Anyanwu and Nobuhle Hlongwa that synthesizes “*The Policy implications of Social Media for Cyberbullying incidents among the Students in a University in KwaZulu-Natal*”. This paper explores the policy implications of social media for cyber-bullying incidents among the students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Based on qualitative study that utilised the interpretive paradigm and semi-structured interviews that were guided by the Theory of Reasoned Action, the findings of the study suggest that victims of cyberbullying experienced low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, a variety of negative emotional responses and negative effect on their academic performances. The study highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive policy on cyber-related criminality.

ILEVBARE, Rita Izilafe and BADMUS, Isiaka Alani present the third paper on “*An Examination of the Legal Response to Intimate Partner Violence against Women in Southwest Nigeria*”. This study examined the effectiveness of legal response to intimate partner violence (IPV) against women in Southwest Nigeria. Based on descriptive design with a mixed-methods approach for data collection, the study found that despite existing laws and support services, most women in Southwest Nigeria hesitate to pursue criminal prosecutions for IPV due to societal and institutional barriers, including stigma, lack of trust in the criminal justice system, and fear of undermining family cohesion. The study highlights the need for a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach including a balanced legal response focusing on both criminal and civil aspects of IPV laws for addressing IPV and promoting women's rights, peace, security, and well-being.

The fourth paper is by Farai Joseph Chidhume, Joseph Muwanzi, Tichaona B. Matsvimbo that introduces “*Victim-centred Restorative and Reparative Transitional Justice Models: The Case of the Buberera Community, Zimbabwe 2009-2024*”. The paper assessed restorative and reparative transitional justice in Zimbabwe. Based on a qualitative research design that was guided by the restorative justice theoretical framework to collect the necessary data for the assessment, the study found no victim compensation or healing due to the fear of political ramifications that has prompted local communities to resort to community-centred rehabilitation and healing methods founded on cultural and societal morals such as kuripira ngozi (appeasement), chokwadi (truth telling) and kupfira mate (acknowledgement of guilt). The paper is a good reminder of the critical role of traditional cultures, values and norms in advancing victim-centered transitional and social justice.

The Regional Focus Papers: There are three (3) papers that focus on regional security issues in this second issue of the Journal.

The fifth paper by Ndakaitei Makwanise is about “Evaluating the use of technology in electoral processes in Kenya and Zimbabwe: Embracing technology for better results”. The paper seeks to answer two questions: how can the use of technology improve the electoral processes? Can the loss of so many people and destruction of properties due to electoral disputes be minimized through improved electoral processes? Based on reviewed literature and guided by the concept of democracy, the paper found that while the use of technology in electoral processes is crucial, it has not yielded the desired outcome in Africa and it calls on the African countries to fully embrace technology so as to minimize electoral disputes. This paper is a good reminder of the need for the design of public policies and enactment of necessary legislations for governing and regulating the use of technology.

Chinedu S. Udeh and Ali Nathaniel Edoaka present the sixth paper that analyzes “*The Contemporary Security Ecosystem in West Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Regional Stability*”. This paper analyzed the evolving security ecosystem in West Africa by evaluating national and regional responses to transboundary threats and risks with focus on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Based on extensive desk-based analysis guided by human security framework, the study found that despite the presence of robust normative frameworks for responding to transboundary threats and risks, the implementation of such frameworks is constrained by national sovereignty disputes, limited resources, weak coordination, and insufficient engagement with non-state actors. This paper underscores the importance of regional security governance in advancing African security.

The seventh paper is by MALAGALA TENYWA ALOYSIUS on “Negotiating the Safety of Strangers in Protracted Crisis Spaces: A Human Rights Perspective”. The paper examines the safety and protection of refugees in protracted crisis spaces with reference to the case of Uganda. Based on qualitative research within settlements with refugees, their leaders and officials from Uganda, the hosting state and humanitarian organisations, the study found that both the Uganda’s formal justice system and the refugees’ own traditional justice mechanisms fail to guarantee the safety and protection of the refugees who were made vulnerable by the protracted crisis. This paper underlines the critical role of a human rights-based approach to improve refugees’ access to the national legal system of the hosting country and ensure their traditional justice mechanisms promote fair and equal treatment of all the refugees.

The Global Focus Papers: There are two (2) papers that focus on the global security issues in this second issue of the Journal.

Goredema Dorothy and Manyonda Erick present the eighth paper that discusses “The Russia-Ukraine War: Critical Lessons for Global Energy Markets”. This paper explores the multifaceted impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war on global energy markets, from surging oil and gas prices to accelerated investments in renewable energy and diversification strategies. Based on critical analysis and drawing on real-time data and lived experiences, the study highlights how Europe's dependency on Russian energy has catalyzed a transition toward alternative sources, while developing nations have faced increased economic pressure due to energy price volatility. The paper underscores the urgent need for resilient, inclusive, and sustainable energy systems and call for a collective global shift from fossil fuel dependency to a more secure and just energy future.

The last but not the least paper is by Gideon O. Adeniji that presents “PRINCIPLE-PROFIT CONTENTION: AN ANALYSIS OF US ARMS SALES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL SECURITY”. This paper aims to unravel the dynamics of the US arms trade, its implications for the U.S. and the world at large. Based on a qualitative content analysis method, the study found that the U.S. employs arms trade as a deliberate foreign policy instrument to achieve certain geopolitical goals, such as the security of allies and regions of interest, facilitating cordial relationships with allies and promoting global security overall. However, inherent issues have also been stressed that seem to threaten the overall aim of weapons trade, such as profit considerations over principles, which may end up compromising the U.S. interests and global security at large. This paper underscores the need for strict global guidelines in determining states that will be beneficiaries of the great powers' weapons.

I would like to sincerely thank the authors who contributed with their papers to this second issue of the Journal, as you have shown keen interest in the Journal and endured our peer-review process. You are now welcome as distinguished founding members of the growing family of the Journal and we will keep you abreast of any development with the Journal. Special thanks and appreciation go to the peer-reviewers for availing their precious time to provide your timely and high quality review of the papers for this second issue of the Journal. Above all, I exceptionally thank the editorial team for their sterling, diligent and timely editorial process, particularly Asar Ann, Professor Jideofor Adibe and Mr. Isaac Onyekachi. I would like also to express my profound appreciation to the team at Adonis & Abbey

Publishers for nurturing this journal and for advancing the African security through this Journal.

Our journey of advancing the African security through rigorous research and analysis is in progress and it has been accelerated further by this second issue of the Journal. I still encourage researchers, particularly early-career researchers, professionals, students and practitioners of the strategic, defense and security issues across the continent and beyond to share their contributions to our future issues of the Journal and to provide any feedback on the Journal as the only way to improve the quality of the Journal and to make it relevant and a living journal. In particular, I beseech the post-graduate students in strategic, defense and security studies to take advantage of this journal to publish your dissertations or theses for partial fulfillment of your envisaged degrees as publishable articles in this Journal.

With this second issue, we will continue with our commitment to nurture and sustain the Journal and to build strong community of interest to advance collectively and individually the African security through the AJSDSS.

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