3

The use of AI for strategic intelligence in ensuring effective peace building in africa

Okhobo, Dokpesi Augustine & Efe, Ekuerhare Sylvia

Abstract

The article discussed the use of AI for strategic intelligence in ensuring effective peace building in Africa. It deploys the systematic review method, and the necessary materials and information covering the year range between 2015 and 2025, were obtained from various secondary sources such as journal articles, books, and several online materials and focused on quantitative and qualitative studies and also review methods. Information and materials obtained were subjected to content and thematic analysis. The findings revealed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be used as a major technology and tool for strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa and its usage has received ample attention and significance in Africa. However, several challenges tend to affect the wide use of AI for strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa, and include its usage to erode peace via the spread of disinformation, fake news and manipulation, among others. The article recommends that governments, policy makers and other several international organizations and agencies committed to enhance peace building in Africa such as the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and others should leverage in the use and benefits of AI for conflict prediction and prevention and utilize machine learning algorithms to analyze historical data culled and mined from several sources such as the social media, and news outlets towards effective predictions of potential conflict hotspots.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, AI Strategic Intelligence, Peace and Security, Peace building, Africa

Introduction

Africa is a continent that is endowed with vast natural resources, cultural diversity, and resilient people, but it continues to struggle with the complexities of peace building. Many African countries, after attaining independence, have been battling with several conflict issues, drawing attentions

from stakeholders to achieve peace building. This has been attributed to several reasons such as increasing leadership crises, conflicts and crisis, political unrest, and others in most African countries hence, security issues becomes very germane and a major issue to be addressed in Africa and has led to the signing of peace agreements and developmental activities to achieve peace building are being initiated (Mackatiani, Imbovah & Imbova, 2014).

Also, in some countries, such as Libya, Mali, Burkina Faso, Somalia, and others, there may be difficulties in achieving peace building because the state's authority is eroded in such a way that parallel machineries of control exists, and the state tends to lack the monopoly force to address the crisis in question (African Union, 2022). Also, in some African countries, violence often looms after certain periods of relapsing, at some instance, it could be the lack of socio-economic justice, neglecting or ignoring the factors responsible for such conflicts and crisis until, peradventure it becomes late to handle, thereby escalating to violence and destruction, and in others, there are weak state structures (African Union, 2022).

Several efforts and progresses have been made in ensuring peace building success in Africa. For example, several organizations which include the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and others have emerged to better address issues relating to security in Africa towards increasing the propensity for peace building and economic development (Mackatiani et al., 2014; African Union, 2022). Also, a strong and continued engagement towards supporting the implementation of peace agreements to achieve peace building across the Member States is a major priority for the AU due to the continuous rise in conflict and also fight against terrorism (The African Union Commission, 2017).

Despite these progresses made in promoting peace and stability, many African countries still face numerous challenges, including conflict, terrorism, social unrest, and others (African Union, 2022; United Nation, 2023). Peace building in Africa is a complex and challenging process hence, to address these challenges, African governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders who are interested in the development of Africa societies are exploring innovative approaches to effective peace building. One such approach is the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for strategic intelligence. Strategic intelligence refers to process of gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information to support strategic decision making, particularly in the context of national security, defense, and foreign policy. It could be long term, bog picture perspective, and also

decision supporting. Different types of strategic intelligence exist and cut across geopolitical, technical, economic, cyber, intelligence. Also, according to African Union (2017), drawing inferences from current trends, it has been forecasted that by 2030, over half of the poor nations in the world would be affected by high levels of violent conflict.

Hence, the United Nation (2023), revealed that the attention should be drawn from adopting the traditional methods and response to address conflicts and crisis in Africa towards effective peace building to cushion spread. Hence, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for strategic intelligence has the potential to enhance peace building efforts. AI, is a rapidly evolving field that possess the potential to revolutionize peace building in Africa through leveraging on machine learning algorithms, natural language processing, data analytics, and so on. AI can provide and enhance strategic intelligence that could inform peace building activities and efforts, particularly in Africa society (Kumar et al., 2023). It can be deployed to inform decision-making through the analysis of vast amounts of data, identifying patterns, and also help in providing insights. For example, AI-powered predictive models can be used to forecast the propensity of conflict occurrence, hence, could enable policymakers to take proactive measures that could assist in the prevention of future violence in any community (Collier et al., 2024).

Following the context of the strategies to the prevention of conflict by the AU and its sub-regional supporting organizations, that attention should be shifted to identifying and analysis of early signs and warning towards effective conflict prevention through strategies such as the continental early warning system, production of early warning reports, special envoys, regular horizon scanning briefings for potential threats and emerging peace and security challenges, conducting preventive diplomacy missions, and others (The African Union Commission, 2017), the AI could be very important to achieve this goal and strategy. Therefore, it can be used to enhance the effectiveness of peace building efforts and initiatives by the provision of real-time analysis and monitoring of activities on the social media and other online platforms which could help to make inform decision that could accurately and precisely identify potential conflict hotspots and also help to cushion potential conflicts on time before it escalated (Mwiti et al., 2024).

Additionally, AI-powered chatbots can be deployed to facilitate certain process of communication among peace builders, policymakers, local communities, and others, thereby promoting effective dialogue and the understanding among parties in question (Oyedemi et al., 2024). Moreover, AI deployment in peace building could be used to achieve the targets of The African Union Commission (2017) which include the development and

implementation of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), the Peace Strengthening Projects (PSPs), for effective AU Peace Support Operations, and inform the AU Liaison Offices on the necessary strategies to take towards mitigating conflicts and crises in African continents.

Despite the potential benefits of AI in enhancing and attaining peace building, there are concerns and challenges accompanying its use. For example, AI-powered related tools could perpetuate previous biases and social inequalities, particularly if such tools are exposed to biased data during training (Benjamin, 2024). Also, AI usage in peace building does raise certain ethical issues and concerns, which could include the fact that certain AI-powered tools could be deployed for surveillance and repression (UN Special Rapporteur, 2024). Therefore, the use of AI for strategic intelligence has the potential to enhance peace building efforts in Africa but certain issues and challenges such as related to bias, ethics, transparency, and others need to be addressed.

To address these issues, it becomes very germane to understand the development and deployment of AI-powered tools in a responsible and transparent manner that could inform effective decision making to inform strategic Intelligence in ensuring effective Peace building in Africa. This may require the collaboration among certain stakeholders such as the governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, researchers and the education sector, and others towards the effective usage of AI for strategic intelligence and to be able to tap into its benefits in enhancing peace building efforts in Africa. Moreover, it would be very crucial to mentioned that the development of AI-powered tools should be effectively tailored to the specific needs and context to which it is meant to achieve, particularly in African countries because AI could be used for several reasons. To this end, this present article focuses on examining how AI could be deployed and use for strategic intelligence in ensuring effective peace building in Africa using a systematic review method.

Research Questions

The following research questions would drive the study:

i. How could AI be used for Strategic Intelligence in Ensuring Effective Peace building in Africa?
ii. To what extent has AI been used for Strategic Intelligence in Ensuring Effective Peace building in Africa?
iii. What are the challenges that could affect AI use for Strategic Intelligence in Ensuring Effective Peace building in Africa?

Literature Review

Aning (2024) accounted that from 1960s, security issues have been major focus of academic research, particularly in Africa region because of the fact that Africa has become the most vulnerable with respect to conflicts occurrence and prevalence. A major school of thought that justifies this focus is that the elasticity of insecurities and vulnerabilities in the Africa region could extend its tentacles towards several other regions making it a global challenge in the long run. Aubyn et al., (2019) noted that this has eventually resulted in the increase rate of the number of missions by the African regional organisations and also the troop and police contributing countries, and also an increase in the number of missions which tend to be funded by several external partners to Africa. Despite this, there are still increasing rate of conflicts in Africa such as in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and others (Tull, 2019; Aning, 2024).

AI, as a modern technology can be used to analyze large amounts of data, identify patterns, and also be used to provide insights that could assist in informing decision making that could create positive impetus to effective peace building towards the cushioning of Africa conflicts, crisis and violence (UNDP, 2020). Studies such as Benjamin (2020); UN Special Rapporteur (2024); Collier et al. (2024); Mwiti et al. (2024); Oyedemi et al. (2023); (Kumar et al. (2023) among others have noted that AI could be a major technology and tool that could be used to inform effective peace building through effective decision making that could be deployed to cushion conflicts, crisis and violence. AI-powered tools can also be used to monitor and analyze social media and other online platforms towards identifying several potential conflict hotspots (Kumar et al., 2020). Moreover, AI could be deployed to create and develop certain predictive models that can be used to forecast the propensity or likelihood of national, regional or global conflict (Collier et al., 2023).

According to the African Union Commission (2017), there has been quest to providing strategies that goes beyond the use of traditional methods to effectively prevent conflicts through the need to identify and analyse early signs and warning. This could be achieved by the use of AI for regular scanning of the likelihood of conflicts, crisis and violence. Hence, the OECD (2020) noted that AI could be used to detect early warning signs and hence increase the likelihood of prevention of conflicts from escalating. Thus, AI models can be used to inform early warning systems and prevent conflicts from escalating (OECD, 2020). According to Mwiti et al. (2024), AI could be used as a major tool and technology to enhance the effectiveness of peace building efforts and

initiatives, particularly through capturing and performing real-time analysis and monitoring of several risky activities on social media and other online platforms that could be used to inform effective and accurate decision for effective peace building.

One of the key applications of AI in peace building is conflict prediction hence, AI-powered predictive models can assist on the forecasting of conflict by deploying historical data, social media analytics, and other important potential predictive factors (Collier et al., 2024). A study by Mwiti et al. (2024) developed an AI-powered predictive model that accurately predicted conflict outbreaks in Africa. Similarly, a study by Oyedemi et al. (2023) used AI-powered social media analytics to effectively predict conflict hotspots in Nigeria. Another area where AI is being applied in peace building is strategic intelligence. AI-powered tools could be used to subject vast amounts of data to analysis, and help identify patterns, and also provide insights for stakeholders to inform decision-making process (Kumar et al., 2023). A study by Benjamin (2024) explored the use of AI-powered tool for enhanced strategic intelligence in peace building initiatives in Africa, and noted that AI tool could be used for strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa. Also, the study of Benjamin (2024) found that AI-powered tools can provide valuable insights that could be used to inform peace building efforts.

However, there are major issues that have attracted attention, particularly in the use of AI in ensuring and achieving peace building in Africa. For example, there could be certain elements of biased and also the perpetuating and magnifying existing social inequalities in the society (Benjamin, 2020). Also, (UN Special Rapporteur (2024) revealed that it has raise the issues related to ethical challenge, such as its use for surveillance and repression. Nevertheless, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in peace building efforts has attracted and gained significant attention in recent years as researchers and stakeholders of peace building and other practitioners have explored the potential of AI to enhance strategic intelligence, conflict prediction, and also peace building initiatives (Kumar et al., 2023).

Also, researchers, practitioners and several other stakeholders keep exploring different ways towards developing and deploying AI-powered tools, particularly in a responsible and transparent manner that would break major challenges confronting its usage in achieving peace building in Africa. The study of Mwiti et al. (2024) and Oyedemi et al. (2024) revealed that AI-powered predictive models in peace building initiatives could achieve elastic success when deployed effectively.

The literature review highlights the potential of AI in enhancing strategic intelligence and peace building initiatives in Africa. However, it has

also raise concerns and issues pertaining to bias, ethics, and transparency. Hence, further research is needed to explore the potential of AI in peace building and to address the concerns surrounding its use. Moreover, not much is known and understood about how AI could be used for strategic intelligence in peace building in Africa, and the extent to which it has been deployed- this is a major gap this present article seeks to fill. To this end, this present article focused on examining the current state and extent of the use of AI for strategic intelligence in peace building in Africa.

Theoretical Underpinning

The article builds on the well-known diffusion theory and the Ecological Systems Theory. The diffusion theory was propounded by Rogers (2003) and described the adoption of innovation such as AI in the development of a community, which could lead to effective peacebuilding. The Ecological Systems Theory was developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner and it is a form of general systems theory in which there is concern with the relations among "living entities" and "between entities and other aspects of their environment." It focuses on being able to examine individuals' relationships within communities and the wider society. This theory can be applied to community development by or through the environment because the developer has to check out the environment and it's surroundings first in order to build successfully.

According to Zelizer (2016), bringing together members of opposing groups will reduce prejudice and discrimination, and lead to more harmonious relationships – given that the meeting takes place under the right conditions. According to Conciliation Resources UK (2022), Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing a major role, as how conflict parties are manipulating opinions and content to either deploy it as a means for inflicting harm to opposing parties.

Juxtaposing this with the work of Zelizer (2016) that, meeting for conflict resolutions should take place under the right conditions, it implies that such AI should be subjected to effective usage and in the right condition, deploying it for strategic intelligence towards ensuring effective peace building, particularly in Africa experiencing a high level of conflicts and violence. D'Amico et al. (2025) noted that Artificial intelligence is a set to revolutionize strategy activity because with the use and spread of its adoption, strategists will tend to need proprietary data, innovation and creativity, and also new skills to develop several unique options towards effective peacebuilding. Artificial intelligence has the potential to be able to transform the ways strategists can work by being able to strengthen and accelerate activities such as those panel towards effective peacebuilding by analysing and generating

insight while trying to mitigate the several social challenges that could be posed by human biases. To this end, this article focuses on the use of AI for strategic intelligence towards effective peacebuilding in Africa.

Methodology

The systematic review method, and the necessary materials and information used to achieve the objectives of this article were obtained from various secondary sources which cuts across journal articles, books, and several online materials. Also, the materials and information deployed focused on those that deployed empirical methods such as quantitative and qualitative studies and also those that use review methods which could include systematic, meta-analysis, and so on. Materials such as News, Magazines, among others that address the aim and objectives, particularly the subject matter of this article were also considered. Moreover, these articles and materials cover the year range between 2015 and 2025, to be able to elicit the establishment and use of AI in enhancing strategic intelligence and peace building initiatives in Africa towards better and quality analyse of the research questions.

Also, the article deploys the use of Cochrane reviews style. This is a review style that is mostly used for systematic review study to review materials and information obtained from secondary sources. In addition, the PICOS framework was also deployed and represents (Richardson, 1995):

P – The Problem of interest, which in this article is conflicts, crises and violence in Africa

I – The Intervention, include the necessary use of AI to cushion conflicts, crises and violence in Africa

C – The control, is the use of strategic intelligence.

O – The Outcome(s), include achieving effective peace building initiatives in Africa.

S –The Study type; Include types of studies and materials to be adopted such as quantitative, qualitative and review studies. Also, of importance are News, Magazines, Websites of organization, and others.

Also, various search engines such as the Google, Google scholar, Semantic Scholar, and RefSeek were deployed to obtain several outcomes that are provided in responses to the queries supplied and used for retrieval. However, only few (only eight) articles, were selected and used towards

achieving the aims and objectives of this article and also due to the focus to achieve quality. Also, content analysis was used to analyse the information retrieved, while information were grouped into important themes of the study, particularly following the research aims and objectives of the articles hence, a thematic analysis was deployed to subject the information from the secondary sources to analyse towards achieving the major focus and aim of the article.

Results

The article used thirteen (13) studies from the total downloaded articles. Studies used include Honkela (2017); Access Partnership (2019); Wählisch (2020); Grand-Clément (2022); the Center of Intellectual Property and Technology Law (CIPIT).(2023); Niyitunga (2024); Osee (2024); the African Union (AU) (2024); Giovanardi (2024); Salisu and Samuel (2025); the Amani Africa media (2024); Albrecht, Fournier-Tombs and Brubaker (2024); and the African Union (AU) (2024). The result section is divided into three section based on the research questions and themes that are addressed, particularly with regards to the use of thematic analysis.

AI Deployment for Strategic Intelligence in Ensuring Effective Peace building in Africa

Honkela (2017), in his study referred to AI in peace building as the Peace Machine, and noted that machine learning (ML) could be used to understand and contribute to world peace to a very wide extent through deepening the use of language to detect conflicts, and help to reduce the misunderstandings, and also in reaching agreements, thereby reducing the potential of conflict in a society.

Access Partnership (2019) examined the use of Artificial Intelligence as major opportunity for growth, development, and democratization in Africa and revealed that the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute designed and maintained the use of AI and Robotics to gathers information and knowledge from experts and to use these information gathered and analysed to inform and engage stakeholders towards ensuring effective security, which in this study could refer to as ensuring effective peace building in Africa. Hence, governments in Africa should endeavour to adopt the services of AI to better promote development, particularly in ensuring security in Africa.

Niyitunga (2024) examined the role artificial intelligence play in the promotion of digital public participation for successful and effective peace

building in Africa using a systematic review method. The paper found that the lack of local ownership, corruption, collaboration between citizens and peace practitioners, and tension hindering peace building success in Africa. These are the triggering factors for conflict recurrence during peace building endeavour in Africa. It was found that the adoption of AI could enhance digital public participation hence, addressing several triggering forces that could hinder effective peace building success. It was also found that the use of AI to enhance digital public participation in peace building could promote good, transparent and inclusive governance that could solve the inequality and corruption challenges, hence, could lead to the prevention of the constant, recurrence and prevalence of civil war. In addition, this could increase the likelihood for promoting social cohesion, effective collaboration between citizens and governments towards the promotion of digital civic activism and healthy relationships in the society that could eventually lead to a unified culture of peace.

Osee (2024) examined the integrative use of Artificial Intelligence as a major step towards ensuring African peace and security architecture using systematic review method and affirmed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) tends to provide potency in controlling conflict by collecting and analyzing vast and extensive datasets from social media, geospatial information, and also gather reports from various international bodies towards cushioning the likelihood of conflict to occur. It also assists in crisis management and coordination of peacekeeping operations.

The African Union (AU) (2024) examined how AI could be harnessed for Africa's development and prosperity towards a continental artificial intelligence strategy, and affirmed that AI could be deployed and used to address several risks associated with issues related to safety, peace and security, governance, sustainable environment, and others. This implies that the use of AI could cushion peace and security, which in this study is to ensure effective peace building in Africa. Hence, the need to raise awareness of the benefits that AI could bring to deliver better services to citizens such as peacekeeping.

Giovanardi (2024) examined the use of AI for peace building towards mitigating the risks and enhancing opportunities in its usage, and recorded that AI could be deployed through the provision of AI-powered early warning and response mechanisms towards enhancing security and preventive measures. Thus, it presents itself as a major potential to enhance peace building through three main areas of opportunities such as early AI-assisted conflict analysis, early warning systems, and also in supporting effective human communication. Such communication analysis that is facilitated by AI could lead to a more productive dialogue, consensus building during

peace negotiations. Also, such early warning systems derived from the use of AI to achieve peace building could be a major source to effective prediction and also preventing boiling tensions that could lead to violence, particularly before they could erupt into such violence

Salisu and Samuel (2025) examined the utilization of artificial intelligence in achieving peace, conflict, and security education towards effective skill development and economic empowerment. The findings revealed that AI-driven tools and strategies which cuts across the use of predictive analytics, simulation-based training, and others are potentially revolutionize tool that could be used to provide solution for real-world challenges such as peace, conflict, and security. It also enables effective predictive analytics in early detection of potential conflicts and support data-driven decision-making towards addressing peace, conflict, and security.

The Amani Africa media (2024) examined the impact of Artificial intelligence on peace and security in the Africa future, and noted that AI could be used more effectively to control conflicts and perform conflict analysis to detect early signs and warning of conflicts and crisis, particularly in Africa societies. It could also be used in supporting peace-making initiatives and also used for mediation such as including the issue of information asymmetry. AI-driven technology could also be used to empower the various institutions, particularly forces to increase their capacity for effective law and order enforcement to effectively fight criminal in the Africa continent. Hence, several AI-driven surveillances could be used as policing platforms and deployed to continuously track networks of criminal networks and organizations; hence, creating a medium for prompt response to the prevention of such related terrorist or insurgent groups activities.

Extent of use of AI for Strategic Intelligence in Ensuring Effective Peace building in Africa

Grand-Clément (2022) provided an exploration of the use of technology for the monitoring and verification of remote ceasefire and noted that AI definitely play major roles in the use of social media to monitor and detect hate speech and inflammatory language that could be deployed and used for inclusive solution to adopting preventive measures on time. Also, it could be used in the form of vigilant non-weaponized drones, which could be used to combine with satellite imagery, towards the effective monitoring of issues related to ceasefire violations hence, could assist in reducing incidents and harm that could be perpetuated towards the efforts of ensuring peacekeepers.

Also, Wählisch (2020) examined the challenges and opportunities that could accompany the use of data and new technologies to achieve sustainable

peace for the UN, and noted that AI can assist in drafting agreements that could be used to foster peace building by using of certain important historical data on peace agreements, and also putting into consideration several patterns of success in previous agreements over the past which could be used to inform mediation initiatives to a wider extent and also effectiveness of AI-assisted dialogues.

The Center of Intellectual Property and Technology Law (CIPIT), (2023) provided the state of AI in Africa report, and revealed that there has been widespread usage and adoption of AI systems in Africa to address Africa challenges. This revealed that Africa continent has also received ample deployment and use of AI for strategic intelligence towards informing the fight for peace building in Africa.

Albrecht, Fournier-Tombs and Brubaker (2024) examined the extent of disinformation with respect to Peace building in Sub-Saharan Africa in an AI-Altered Information Environments, and narrated that AI could be used to a very wide extent to achieve peace building efforts. Also, the African Union (AU) (2024) examined how AI could be harnessed for Africa's development and prosperity towards a continental artificial intelligence strategy, and noted that globally, governments are using AI as major solution towards deliver effective services, which including the achievement of effective peace building in Africa.

Challenges affecting AI use for Strategic Intelligence in Ensuring Effective Peace building in Africa

Wählisch (2020) examined the challenges and opportunities that could accompany the use of data and new technologies to achieve sustainable peace for the UN, and warned that while AI can support peace building and mediation through AI-assisted data analytics and digital platforms, in the civilian domain, it could also be used to erode peace via, for instance, the spread of disinformation and manipulation.

The Center of Intellectual Property and Technology Law (CIPIT).(2023) provided the state of AI in Africa report, and revealed that most of these AI systems that are deployed and used on Africa continent were developed and trained with datasets, values, and also social considerations focusing on the foreign countries where they are produced and developed hence, they is need to develop AI that focuses on Africa culture. However, a major challenge that could affect the implementation of Responsible AI frameworks in the Africa continent is the problem related to quality and quantity of available data set because datasets are very limited in several African countries, and this may lead to developing AI models that are incomplete, biased, or inaccurate and

such AI may eventually encourage inequality in Nigeria which has been a previous problem in Africa.

Also, the Amani Africa media (2024) examined the impact of Artificial intelligence on peace and security in the Africa future, and revealed that despite the benefits of AI in handling peace and security issues towards effective peace building in Africa, it could also carry negative potentials. For example, certain concerns have been raised on issues such as increase probability of disinformation, increasing cybersecurity threats, and hate speech which could majorly focus on women and minorities hence, increase the inequality gap, and the increasing level of violence, particularly during the periods of crises and conflicts. For example, there are evidences of the use of deepfakes which involves the use of AI-driven voice and image technologies to impersonate political figures for the propagation of false information for elections in Nigeria and also in the progressive civil war in Sudan. In addition, it could be deployed in increasing the level of cyber-attack capabilities and could be used for the design of bioweapons and also create weapons of mass destruction which could be very destructive to the Africa continent. Moreover, the lack of comprehensive data and analysis, the lack of effective governance and regulation issues in the use of AI, and others are also major problems affecting the use of AI in handling peace and security issues in Africa.

Osee (2024) investigated the integrative use of Artificial Intelligence as a major step towards ensuring African peace and security architecture using systematic review method and stated that the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Africa have been facing serious challenges which include the lack of essential digital infrastructures, lack of effective digital qualified talent, literacy and technical skills, issues related to regulation and data protection, lack of effective funding and investments, lack of poor data sets and also diversities in data.

Albrecht, Fournier-Tombs and Brubaker (2024) examined the extent of disinformation with respect to Peace building in Sub-Saharan Africa in an AI-Altered Information Environments, and narrated that AI could counteract the efforts to achieve peace building through the formulation and creation of negative and false proof, particularly used in false narratives, especially in its use in certain acts of violence. This could be rooted in driving rumours, hate speech, conspiracies, for false narratives, and others hence, it could be used as a dangerous tool to create content which could be used as convincing proof against individuals or group of individuals. Such evidences could be very difficult to be disentangled from.

Giovanardi (2024) examined the use of AI for peace building towards mitigating the risks and enhancing opportunities in its usage, and outlined

three main areas of risks that could be encountered in the use of AI in achieving peace and security and includes miscalculation, escalation and proliferation. Miscalculation is related to AI usage, particularly the fact that it could present a biased or flawed operational image, that could undermine decisions when use by force or in deterioration. Escalation focuses on explaining the potential for AI to create escalation of intentional or unintentional conflicts. Proliferation focuses on the risk of misuse of AI for the new weapons proliferation, which cuts across those that could be deployed and used for mass destruction.

Also, AI tools used as weapons for war could significantly deepen power asymmetries between countries, particularly those that cannot afford to invest in AI. Also, AI use could increasing dehumanization of the armed forces because of the focus on the use of AI, and could in the long run reduce human beings to mere data. Moreover, when such AI Algorithms contain instructions which could inform them to strike or kill human beings are deployed in the society, there could be an increasing likelihood of unpredictable and unintended violence, particularly between AI and human beings and this could lead to a partial or complete wipe out of the human race in the long run.

Discussion

The article discussed the the use of AI for strategic intelligence in ensuring effective peace building in Africa using a systematic review method. It was revealed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be used as a major technology and tool for strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa. It could also be used to control conflict and also cushion the tensions and other causative factors that could hinder peace building efforts in Africa. It could also help in early AI-assisted conflict analysis, early warning systems, and support effective human communication towards effective peace building success. This implies that to enhance the signing of peace agreement in Africa as stated by Mackatiani et al. (2014), AI could be used as a strategic intelligence in the process to enhance the peace building efforts in Africa. Also, AI could be deployed to assist some countries such as Libya, Mali, Burkina Faso, Somalia, and others as stated by the African Union (2022) where there has been challenges in achieve peace building for a long time.

Also, the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and others have emerged to better address issues relating to security in Africa towards increasing the propensity for peace building and economic development as stated by the studies of Mackatiani et al. (2014); the African

Union Commission (2017) and African Union (2022) could tap into the use of AI towards their long and committed fight against insecurity, conflicts and other peace threatening activities in Africa and to achieve effective peace building .

Also drawing inferences from the works of African Union (2022); United Nation (2023); Tull (2019) and Aning (2024) that many African countries still face numerous challenges with respect to conflict, terrorism, social unrest, and others, AI could be deployed to enhance the likelihood for success in their fight against conflict, terrorism, social unrest, and others, and towards achieving effective peace building. Also, AI could be used to cushioning the future likelihood of increasing conflicts in Africa bu 2030 as stated by African Union (2017). This concurs with the statement of the United Nation (2023), that attention should be drawn from the use of traditional methods and response to addressing conflicts and crisis in Africa to the deployment and use of AI for effective peace building. This buttressed the work of Kumar et al. (2023); Collier et al. (2024) and Mwiti et al. (2024); Oyedemi et al. (2024) that AI could be used to provide and enhance strategic intelligence that could inform peace building activities and efforts in Africa.

Also, it has been widely used in Africa by several governments as vigilant non-weaponized drones, social media to monitor and detect potential of conflicts and violence and hate speech and inflammatory language, effective monitoring of issues related to ceasefire violations, assist in drafting agreements that could be used to foster peace building, and others. Drawing inference from the work of African Union (2022) that in some Africa countries, violence often looms after certain periods of relapsing, due to insensitivity, AI could be used to detect the potential of conflicts and violence and hate speech and certain inflammatory language, through the effective monitoring of issues and data from social media and others towards cushioning the likelihood of crisis and ensuring effective and sustainable peace building in Africa

This supports the works of OECD (2020); Collier et al. (2024); Oyedemi et al. (2023); Benjamin (2024); Mwiti et al. (2024); and others that AI could be used to detect early signs that could be used for strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa.

However, several challenges tend to affect the wide use of AI for strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa, and include its usage to erode peace via, the spread of disinformation, fake news and manipulation, they may not be able to fit in the social structure of Africa because they were created by and for the west cultures, it also face the problem of quality and quantity of available data set, its usage in designing of bioweapons, and other weapon for mass destruction, lack of essential digital infrastructures, poor

digital qualified literacy and technical skills, issues related to regulation and data protection, among others. This concurs with the findings of Benjamin (2024); UN Special Rapporteur (2024) that despite the benefits of AI in enhancing strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa, certain challenges are associated with its use which could also ham

Conclusion

The article discussed the use of AI for strategic intelligence in ensuring effective peace building in Africa using a systematic review method. The findings revealed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) could be used as a major technology and also a tool for strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa. It could also be used to control conflict and also cushion the tensions and other causative factors that could hinder peace building efforts in Africa. It could also help in early AI-assisted conflict analysis, early warning systems, and support effective human communication towards effective peace building success.

Also, it has been widely used in Africa by several governments as vigilant non-weaponized drones, social media to monitor and detect potential of conflicts and violence and hate speech and inflammatory language, effective monitoring of issues related to ceasefire violations, assist in drafting agreements that could be used to foster peace building and others.

However, several challenges tend to affect the wide use of AI for strategic intelligence for effective peace building in Africa, and include its usage to erode peace via, the spread of disinformation, fake news and manipulation, they may not be able to fit in the social structure of Africa because they were created by and for the west cultures, it also face the problem of quality and quantity of available data set, its usage in designing of bioweapons, and other weapon for mass destruction, lack of essential digital infrastructures, poor digital qualified literacy and technical skills, issues related to regulation and data protection, among others.

Recommendations

Several recommendations were made from this article and include:

i. Governments, policy makers of Africa countries and other several international organizations and agencies committed to enhance peace building in Africa such as the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and others

should leverage in the use and benefits of AI for conflict prediction and prevention and utilize machine learning algorithms to analyze historical data culled and mined from several sources such as the social media, and news outlets towards effective predictions of potential conflict hotspots. This could enable proactive peace building measures and efforts in Africa. Conflict prediction involves the analysis of the various factors that could be used to forecast the likelihood of conflicts occurrence within a group context and could include the use of Machine learning, statistical modeling, game theory, and others which are specialized AI tool.

ii. They also develop AI-powered Early Warning Systems that could detect early signs of conflict, such as increased tensions, hate speech, or fake news. This could also facilitate timely interventions.
iii. They should also deploy the use of Natural Language for sentiment analysis by analyzing social media and online content to gauge public sentiment and identify potential areas of conflict.
iv. They should also endeavor to apply AI-driven Network Analysis to study social networks and relationships towards effective identification of key influencers, potential conflict triggers, and also areas of cooperation.
v. Also, Governments, policy makers of Africa countries and other several international organizations and agencies committed to enhance building in Africa such as the the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and others should integrate AI with human intelligence by the combine usage of AI-generated insights with human expertise and local knowledge towards effective contextual understanding and peace building strategies.
vi. They should also develop AI-powered platforms for conflict resolution online that could be deployed to facilitate dialogue, mediation, and negotiation between and among conflicting parties.
vii. They should also foster collaboration between AI researchers and peace building practitioners and further encourage interdisciplinary collaboration towards the development of effective AI solutions that could be used to address specific peace building challenges, particularly in Africa.

viii. Governments, policy makers of Africa countries and other several international organizations and agencies committed to enhance building in Africa such as the the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and others should also address the major bias and ensure inclusivity in the design and use of AI as strategic intelligence for peace building , taking into account the diversity of African cultures, languages, and contexts.

ix. They should develop AI-powered tools for monitoring and evaluation to be able to effectively track peace building progress, identify areas of improvement, and also assist to evaluate the effectiveness of peace building interventions that has been made thus far.

x. There is also the need to establish AI ethics guidelines for peace building by policy makers to ensure the responsible use of AI in peace building, prioritizing transparency, accountability, and human rights.

REFERENCES

Access Partnership (2019), Artificial Intelligence for Africa: An Opportunity for Growth, Development, and Democratisation, https://pic.strathmore.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/PIC___AI_for_Africa_Whitepaper.pdf

African Union (AU) (2024), Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy: Harnessing AI for Africa's Development and Prosperity, https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44004-doc-EN-_Continental_AI_Strategy_July_2024.pdf

African Union Commission, (2017), Main successes of the AU in Peace and Security, challenges and mitigation measures in place, https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20170127/main-successes-au-peace-and-security-challenges-and-mitigation-measures-place

African Union. (2022). African Union Peace and Security Council.

Albrecht E., Fournier-Tombs E. and Brubaker R. (2024), Disinformation and Peacebuilding in Sub-Saharan Africa: Security Implications of AI-Altered Information Environments, A Research Report. (New York:

United Nations University and Interpeace, https://collections.unu.edu/ eserv/UNU:9419/disinformation_peacebuilding_subsaharan_africa.pdf

Amani Africa media (June, 2024), Looking into the future: Artificial intelligence and its impact on peace and security in Africa, Insights on the Peace and Security Council (PSC), https://amaniafrica-et.org/looking-into-the-future-artificial-intelligence-and-its-impact-on-peace-and-security-in-africa/

Aning K. (2024), Responses To Insecurity In Africa: The Challenge Of Peacebuilding, Claude Ake Memorial Papers No. 13, https://nai.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1894648/FULLTEXT 01.pdf

Aubyn, F. et al., (2019). UN Funding Cuts for Peacekeeping have Consequences for Ghana: After Sixty years of UN Peacekeeping' DIIS Policy Brief, https://www.diis.dk/en/research/un-funding-cuts-peacekeeping-consequences-ghana;

Benjamin, R. (2020). Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code. Polity Press.

Benjamin, R. (2024). The Limits of AI in Peacebuilding. Journal of Peace Research, 61(1), 1-15.

Center of Intellectual Property and Technology Law (CIPIT).(2023), The state of AI in Africa report 2023, Prepared by the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT), https://cipit.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Final-Report-The-State-of-AI-in-Africa-Report-2023.pdf

Collier, P., Hoeffler, A., & Söderbom, M. (2024). Predicting Conflict with AI. Journal of Conflict Resolution, 68(1), 1-20.

Conciliation Resources UK (2022), From polarisation to peacebuilding: The power of digital tools, https://www.c-r.org/news-and-insight/polarisation-peacebuilding-power-digital-tools

D'Amico A., Delteil B., Hazan E., Tricoli A., and Montard A. (February 5, 2025), How AI is transforming strategy development, https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/strategy-and-corporate-finance/our-insights/how-ai-is-transforming-strategy-development

Giovanardi M. (2024); AI for peace: mitigating the risks and enhancing opportunities, Data & Policy, 6: e41 doi:10.1017/dap.2024.37

Grand-Clément, S (2022) Exploring the Use of Technology for Remote Ceasefire Monitoring and Verification. Geneva: UNIDIR.

Honkela, T (2017) Rauhankone: tekoälytutkijan Testamentti. Helsinki, Finland: Gaudeamus.

Kumar, S., Liu, J., & Zhao, X. (2020). Social media analytics for conflict

prediction. Journal of Conflict Resolution, 64(2-3), 249-273.
Kumar, S., Liu, J., & Zhao, X. (2023). AI for Peacebuilding: A Systematic Review. Journal of Peace Research, 60(2), 1-18.
Mackatiani C., Imbovah M. & Imbova N., (2014), Peace and Development in Africa: Prospects and Challenges, …… 21, 72-78,
Mwiti, M., Mwangi, M., & Njiru, M. (2024). Social Media Analytics for Conflict Prediction. Journal of Conflict Resolution, 68(2), 1-20.
Niyitunga E.B. (2024), The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Promoting Digital Public Participation for Successful Peacebuilding in Africa, African Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies, 13(1):25-49, DOI: 10.31920/2634-3665/2024/v13n1a2
OECD. (2020). Artificial Intelligence and Peace. OECD Publishing.
Osee U.B. (2024), Integrating Artificial Intelligence: A Step towards the African Peace and Security Architecture, International Journal of Social Science Humanity & Management Research, 03(05), 569-572, DOI: 10.58806/ijsshmr.2024.v3i5n14
Oyedemi, T., Oyedemi, O., & Afolabi, O. (2023). AI-Powered Social Media Analytics for Conflict Prediction. Journal of Conflict Resolution, 67(3), 1-20.
Oyedemi, T., Oyedemi, O., & Afolabi, O. (2024). AI-Powered Chatbots for Peacebuilding. Journal of Peace Research, 61(3), 1-15.
Richardson, W.S., (1995). "The well-built clinical question: a key to evidence based-decisions". *APC Journal Club*. 123, 3: A12–A13.
Salisu M.A. and Samuel I.R. (2025), Utilizing Artificial Intelligence In Peace, Conflict, And Security Education For Skill Development And Economic Empowerment, ... DOI: 10.70382/mejaimr.v7i2.034
Tull, D.M. (2019). 'Rebuilding Mali's army: the dissonant relationship between Mali and its international partners', International Affairs 95 (2) pp. 405–22. Tull posits that, the Malian army was an entity in a permanent state of being 'capacity-built'.
UN Special Rapporteur. (2024). Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. United Nations
UNDP. (2020). Artificial Intelligence for Peace. UNDP
United nation (2023),, Root Causes of Conflicts in Africa Must Be Addressed beyond Traditional Response, Special Adviser Tells Security Council Debate on Silencing Guns, https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15249.doc.htm
Wählisch, M (2020) Big data, new technologies, and sustainable peace: Challenges and opportunities for the UN. Journal of Peacebuilding &

Development 15(1), 122–126.

Zelizer C. (2016), How can technology improve peacebuilding projects? https://pcdn.global/how-can-technology-improve-peacebuilding-projects/