

AFBA CONFERENCE 2026 · MILITARY LAW & SECURITY PANEL

AI Assurance and Accountability in Africa

A Legal Framework for Military Intelligence, Security, and Economic Forecasting

Remy Takang, LLM, MSc, CAIO, DPO

Member, Cameroon Bar Association · Founder, RTivara Advisory

WHY THIS MATTERS

AI is being written into the architecture of the state, faster than the law that should govern it

No African state has yet adopted a binding, sector-specific statute governing AI in defence, security or fiscal decision-making.

AU Continental AI Strategy — development-focused, non-binding, no enforcement body

Malabo Convention — pre-dates modern AI, unratified by South Africa and other major economies

National strategies — aspirational documents, not enforceable law

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS

Three jurisdictions, one pattern

Country	High-stakes deployment	Legal basis today
Nigeria	USD 190m AI sensor-fusion shield (NiDAR) for defence and border security	General executive and procurement authority; no AI-specific statute
Kenya	Border AI, biometrics and drones under a 2025–2030 national strategy	Constitution and Data Protection Act 2019; no shared oversight architecture
South Africa	Machine-learning nowcasting and distress models steering fiscal policy	General public-finance management law only

Rwanda, Egypt, Morocco and Cameroon show the same pattern: growing ambition, no comprehensive assurance regime.

WHAT THE PAPER PROPOSES

The African Legal AI Assurance Framework

I **Legal authorisation & purpose limitation** — every system traceable to explicit statutory or executive authority

II **Risk-tiered impact assessment** — a documented assessment before deployment of high-risk systems

III **Evidentiary traceability & documentation** — an auditable record of every AI-assisted decision

IV **Independent audit & certification** — periodic review against a certifiable management standard

V **Remedy & judicial review** — a route to challenge, with narrow, legislated security exceptions

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT

Accountability without sacrificing operational security

Procurement

Require vendor documentation on legality and traceability before contract signature

Incident reporting

Extend existing breach-notification duties to AI system failures and near-misses

Oversight and courts

Classified inspector-general review, an express parliamentary defence-committee mandate, and judicial capacity to test vendor claims

THE BOTTOM LINE

AI deployed without assurance does not merely risk technical failure. It risks embedding unaccountable state power in exactly the domains where African constitutional law has fought hardest to establish it.

Remy Takang, LLM, MSc, CAIO, DPO

Founder, RTivara Advisory · r.takang@rtivara-advisory.com