1. PMSC’s are a reality, with a history in Africa, and they are here to stay and expand in nature, scope and number.
2. Current and future context in Africa and globally creates fertile ground for PMSC’s
	1. Entering a period of heightened geopolitical tension and competition for influence and resources;
	2. PMSC’s in many cases are and will become an extension of national interests…France, Britain and other colonial powers used them to good effect…the US, Russia, China, Israel will follow suit
	3. African countries are experiencing urban political and social conflict through competition over scarce resources among a rapidly urbanizing population, arriving into cities which are unplanned and which have not transformed from an agrarian to an industrial paradigm
	4. Additionally, those not in total control of their entire sovereign territory are experiencing a rise in radicalized insurgencies, criminal syndicates and armed opposition groups.
	5. UN and African peacekeeping have huge constraints related to funding, training, equipment and narrow mandates and are consequently grossly inadequate,
	6. National militaries are similarly, if not in a worse position when it comes to skilled personnel, training, equipment, and experience in dealing with these elements.
	7. Governments wanting to keep an arm’s length from human rights abuses, torture etc. will find the use of PMSC’s more palatable.
3. PMCS’s will therefore expand in nature, scope and number.
	1. Newcomers are the Russians and the Chinese and they join national groups like the Rapid Support Forces from Sudan, the Rapid Intervention Battalion from Cameroon and then the traditional colonial era forces.
	2. They will include militiamen, rebels, mercenaries and bandits
	3. They will provide services ranging from guarding services to active military engagement and will also include humanitarian assistance and medical evacuations in hostile environments;
	4. They will provide training, logistical support and land, air and sea assets and operate them;
	5. They will increase their scope to provide cyber warfare and political strategy formulation and election manipulation.
4. Conclusion:
	1. We need a regulatory framework that is evolved in consultation with the PMCS industry;
	2. It should have at its core the protection of civilians and the promotion of peace, security, governance and development.