INNOVATING FOR PEACE

PRIORITIES & APPROACH

April 2020
DPPA Innovation Cell

DPPA ▶ INNOVATION
Preventing Conflict. **Sustaining Peace**

CONTENT

1 TOWARDS A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

"SPARK IDEAS
FOR BUILDING
THE FUTURE
WE WANT AND THE
UNITED NATIONS
WE NEED."

António Guterres,
Secretary-General of the United Nations

"

To keep up with the scale and speed of innovation, DPPA has established a dedicated capacity to explore, pioneer and leverage new methodologies in support of its mandate delivery, including digital technologies, behavioural insights, immersive visualization, and other cross-cutting means."

Rosemary A. DiCarlo,
Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DPPA Strategic Plan 2020-2022

INNOVATING IS:

▶ Doing different things, and things differently

▶ Questioning why things are done the way they are

▶ Creating new value

▶ Staying relevant

▶ Futuring peace

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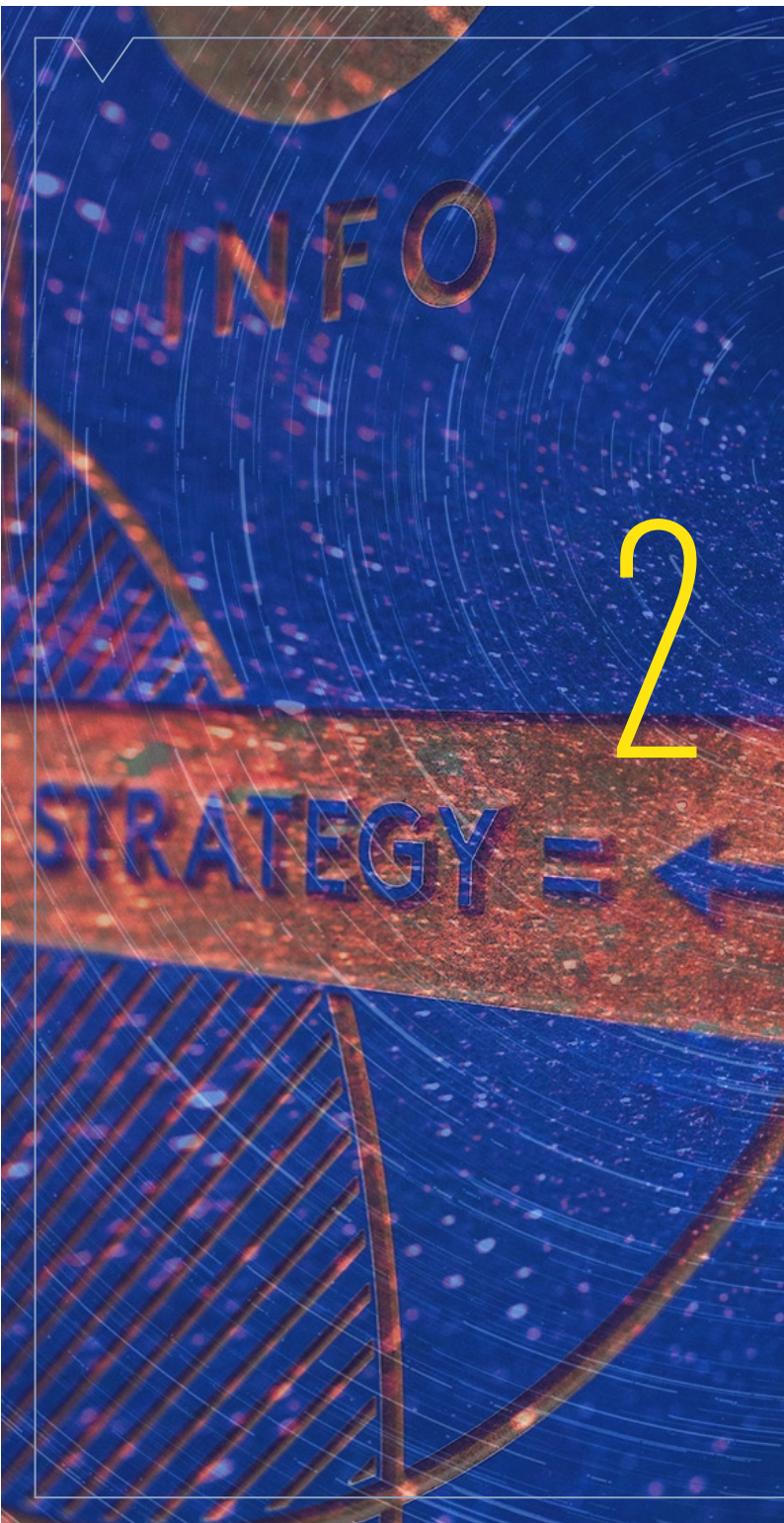
FUNCTIONS OF THE DDPA INNOVATION CELL

NEW CONFLICT REALITIES AND CHALLENGES

As the Secretary-General elaborated in his remarks to the General Assembly on his priorities for 2020, new challenges to peace and security endanger 21st-century progress and imperil 21st-century possibilities.

Existential
climate crisis

Spread of
misinformation
& disinformation

Fall-out of
COVID-19

Geostrategic tensions
& conflict fragmentation

Deep and growing
global mistrust

Dark side of
the digital world
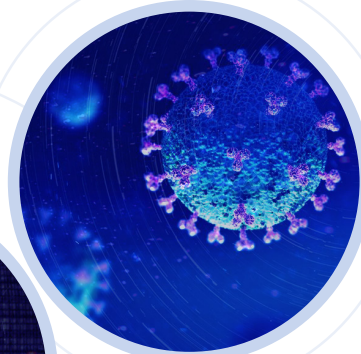
FUTURING PEACE

The Innovation Cell is a catalyst for futuring peace by leveraging new technologies, system theory and human-centered approaches.

PEOPLE
Applying human-centered approach & design

SYSTEMS
Tackling systemic challenges & opportunities

FUTURING PEACE

- Moderated experimentation
- Speculative approaches
- Intelligent failure & innovation

MACHINES
Using tech to leverage conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding
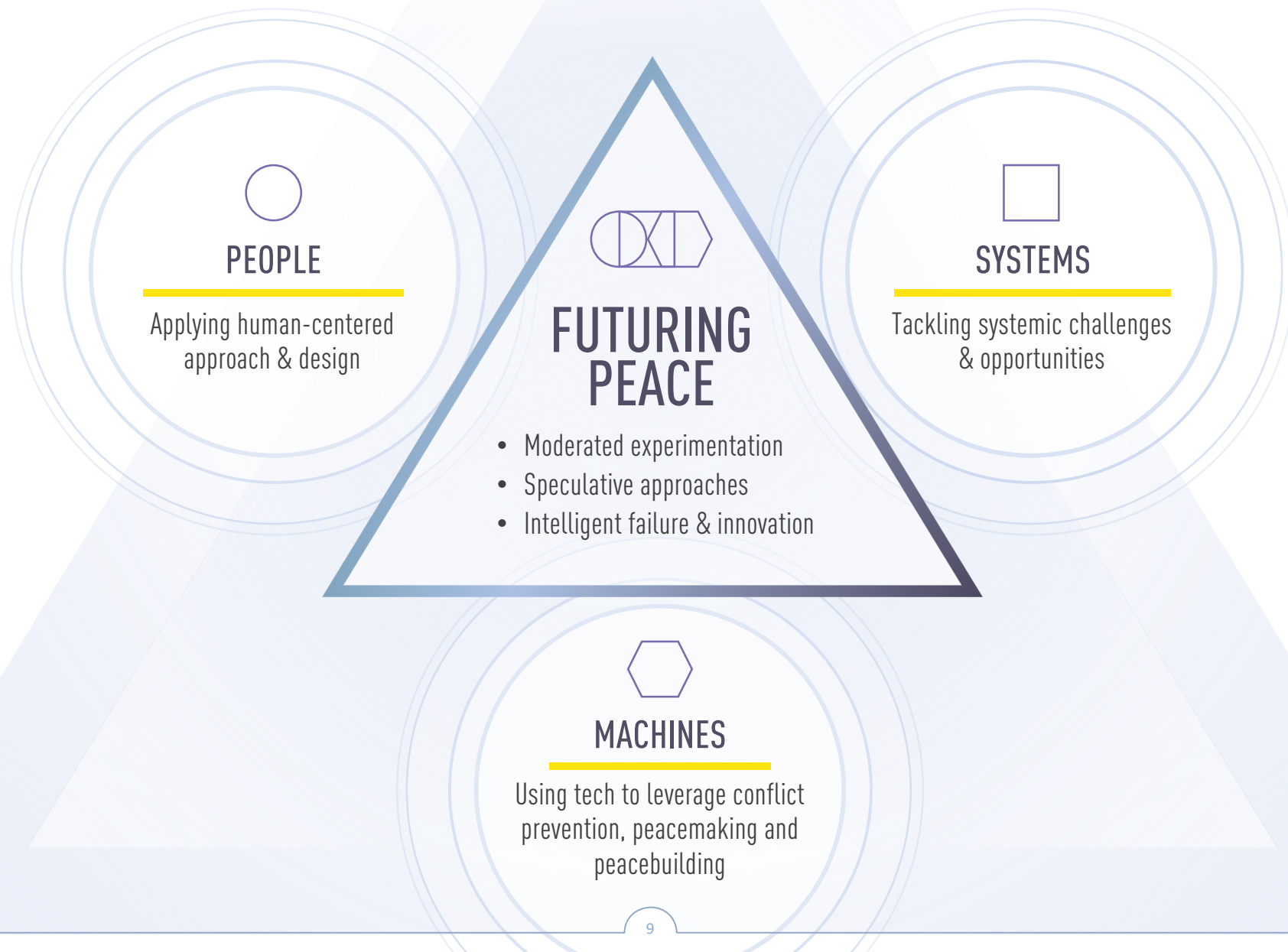
FUNCTIONS OF DPPA INNOVATION CELL

The Innovation Cell is helping DPPA maintain dedicated space for exploration and experimentation of new methodologies in implementation of its mandate.

New methodologies and digital applications for prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding

EXPLORING

INCUBATING

Capacity-building, co-learning opportunities and acceleration of new ideas

DESIGNING, EXPERIMENTING & PROTOTYPING

With DPPA Desks and field presences
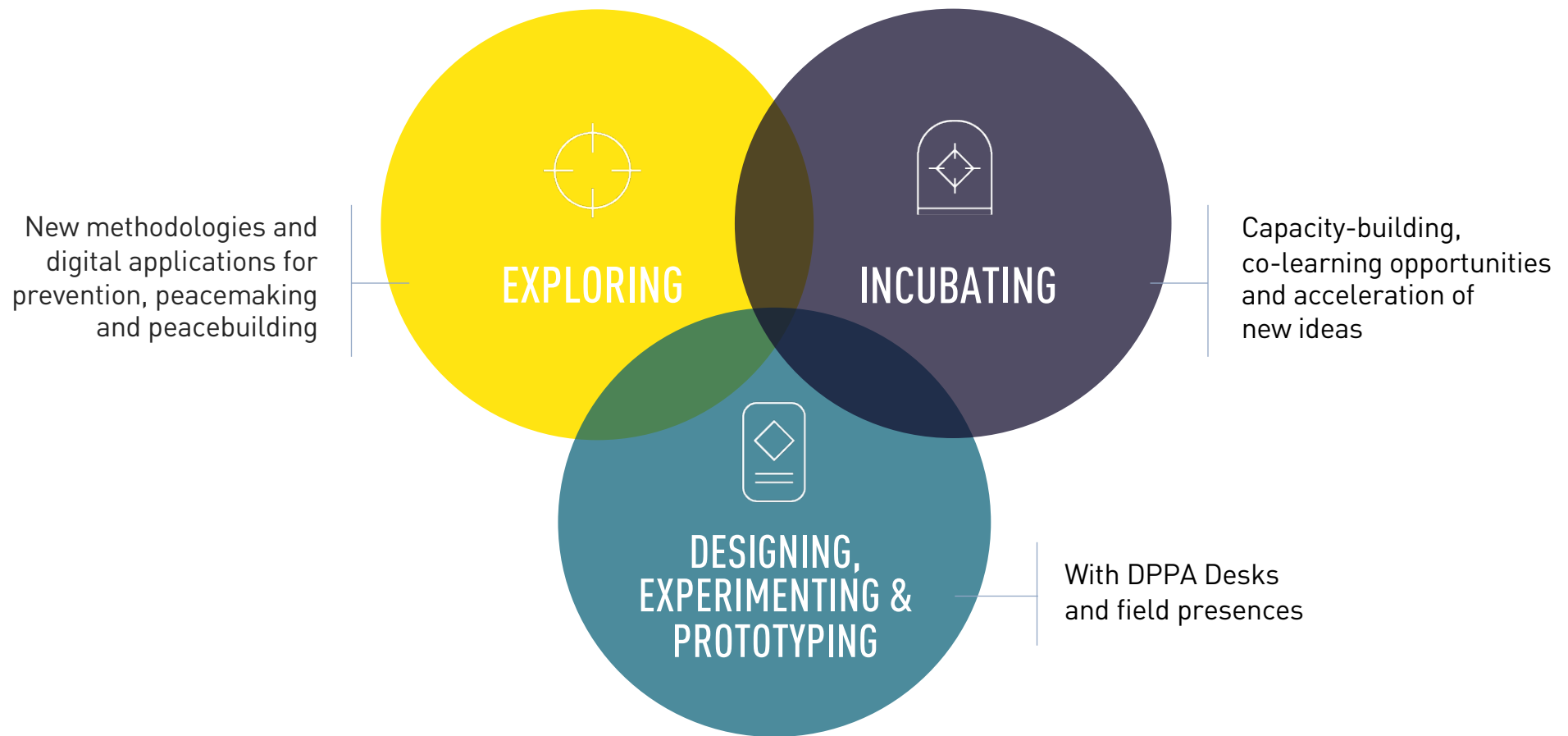
3 APPROACH & PRINCIPLES

APPROACH & PRINCIPLES

The Innovation Cell's work is based on partnerships and brings together multiple disciplines, driven by concrete use cases.
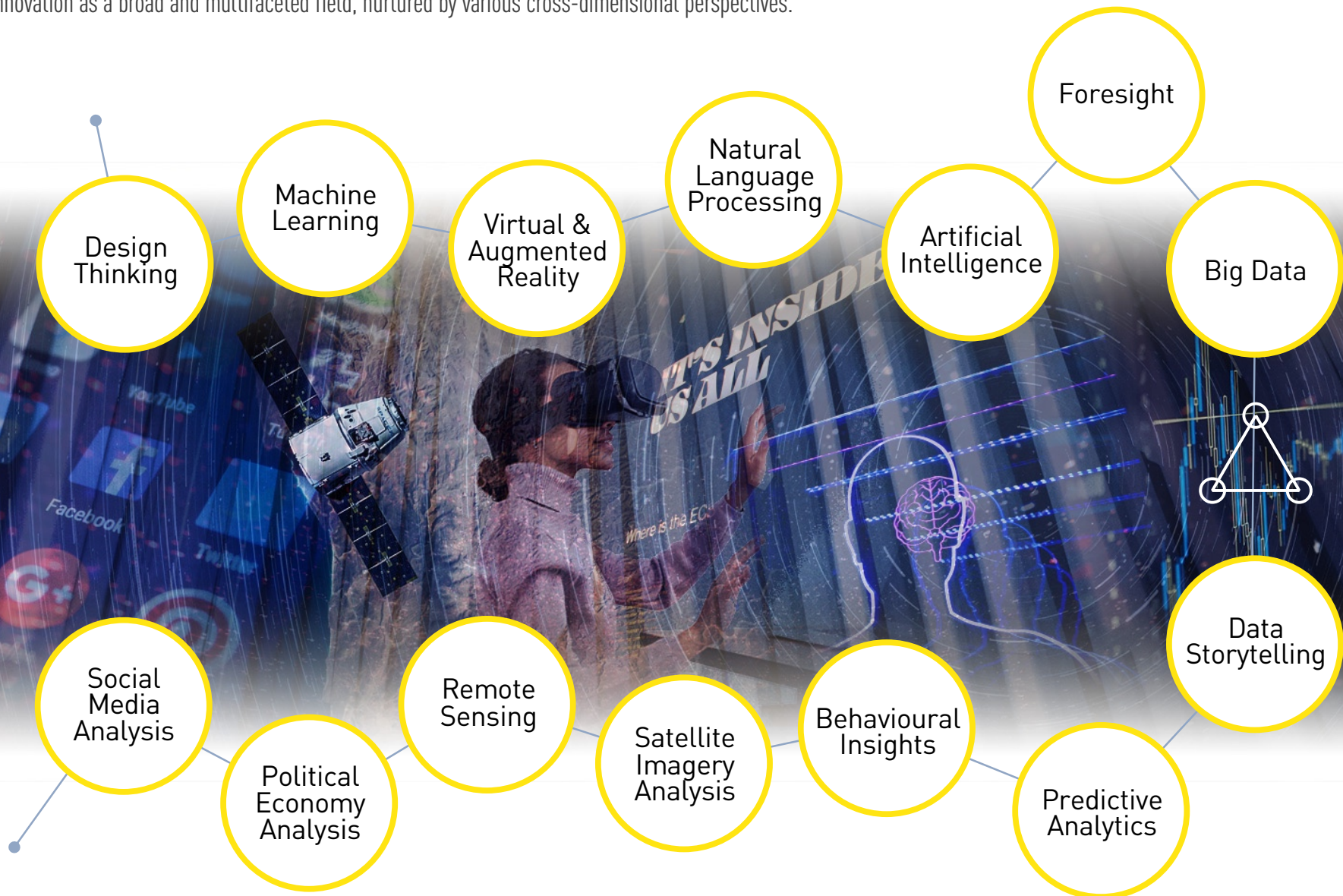
INTERDISCIPLINARY

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

PROBLEM-SOLVING & HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN-ORIENTED

... including computational social science, behavioural insights, cognitive science, system theory, etc.

... towards an ecosystem for innovation

... innovating with purpose
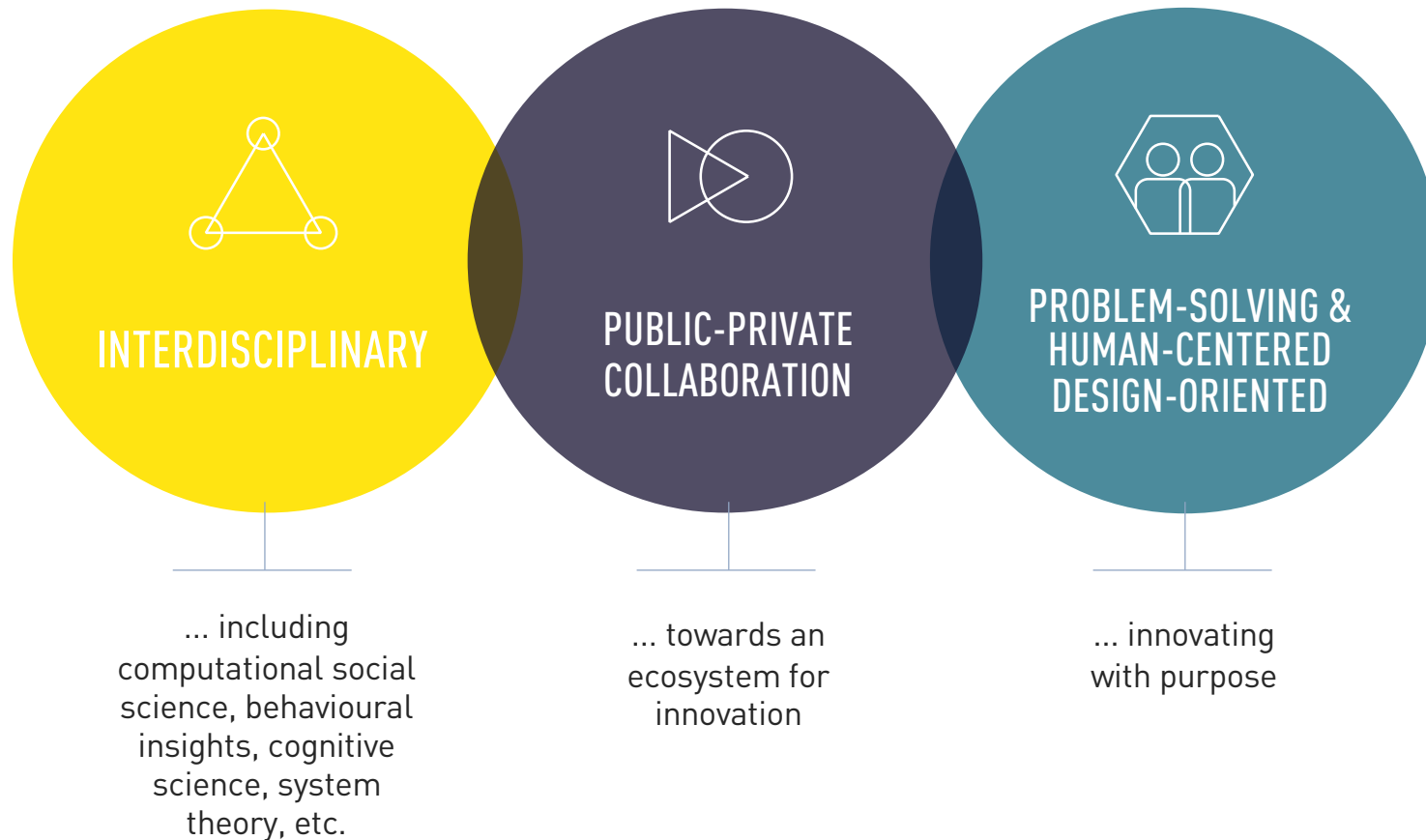
INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

We see innovation as a broad and multifaceted field, nurtured by various cross-dimensional perspectives.

- Foresight
- Natural Language Processing
- Machine Learning
- Virtual & Augmented Reality
- Design Thinking
- Artificial Intelligence
- Big Data
- Social Media Analysis
- Remote Sensing
- Satellite Imagery Analysis
- Behavioural Insights
- Data Storytelling
- Political Economy Analysis
- Predictive Analytics

PILOT PROJECTS (EXAMPLES)

Innovation was part of DPPA's efforts long before the Innovation Cell was established. These are some of the new pilot projects:

AI-Powered Digital Focus Groups & Sentiment Analysis

Social media and big data analysis in support of peace mediation and dialogue efforts

Upgrading Briefings through Virtual & Augmented Reality

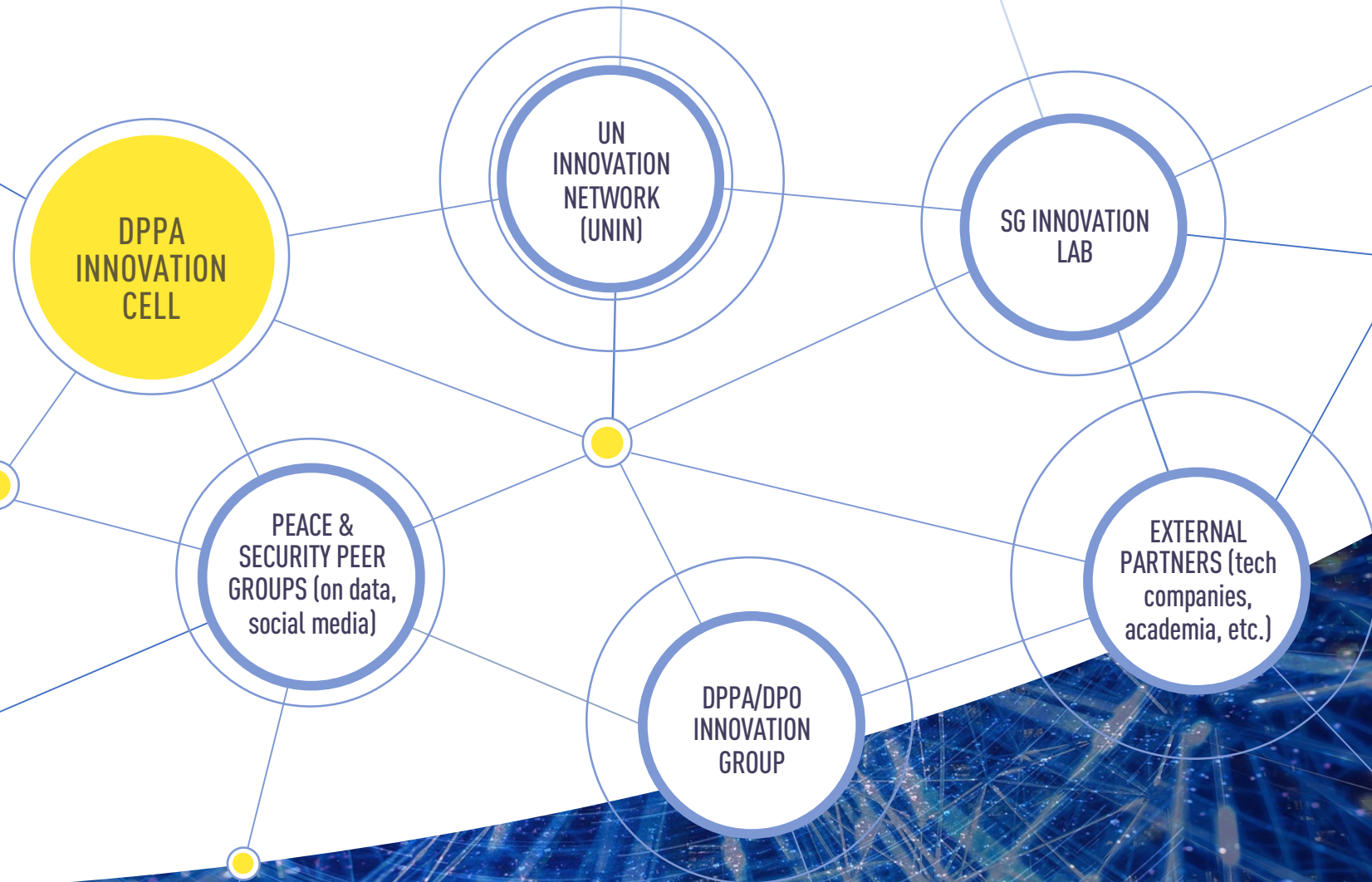Engaging diplomatic experts and wider public through immersive experiences

Remote Sensing & Conflict Prevention

Satellite imagery analysis and drone-enabled sensing combined with computer algorithms to address water and climate security issues
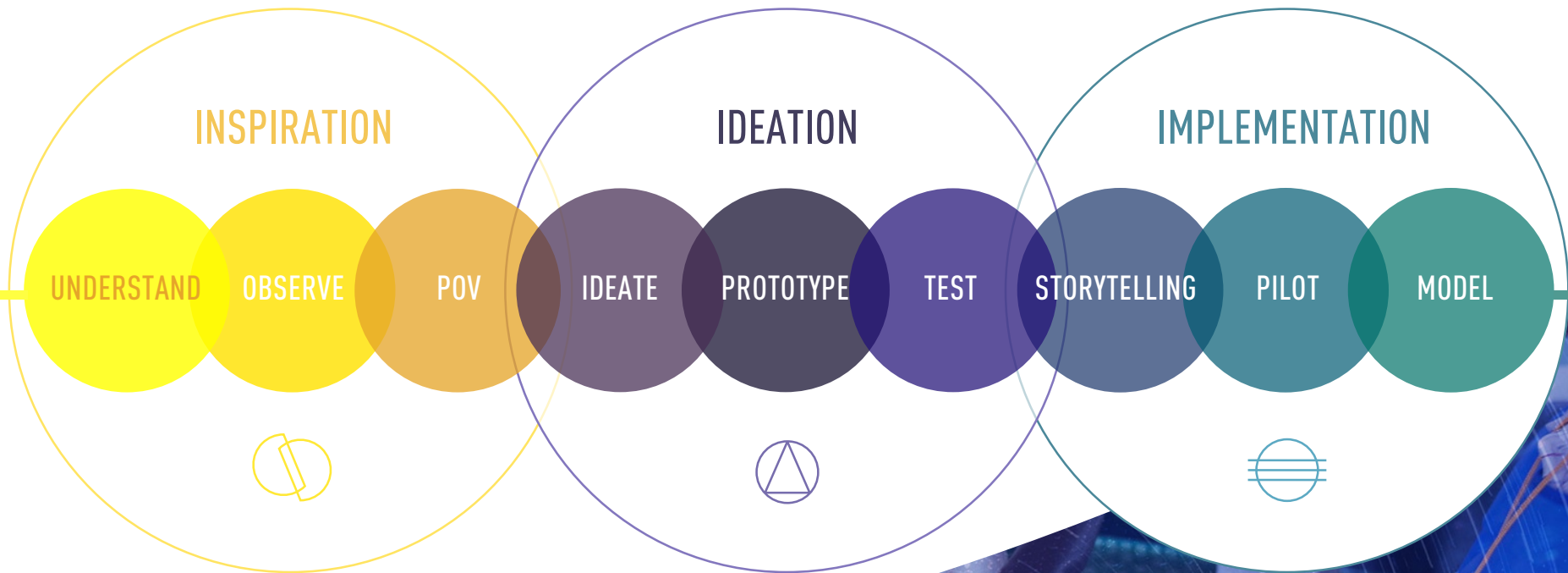
NUTURING INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

We maximize opportunities by contributing to, benefiting from and being part of the wider UN ecosystem of innovation entities.

DPPA INNOVATION CELL

UN INNOVATION NETWORK (UNIN)

SG INNOVATION LAB

PEACE & SECURITY PEER GROUPS (on data, social media)

DPPA/DPO INNOVATION GROUP

EXTERNAL PARTNERS (tech companies, academia, etc.)

INNOVATING WITH PURPOSE

We put design thinking at the heart of our project implementation to assure needs-based and human-centered innovation.

DESIGN THINKING PROCESS

INSPIRATION

UNDERSTAND OBSERVE POV

IDEATION

IDEATE PROTOTYPE TEST

IMPLEMENTATION

STORYTELLING PILOT MODEL

STRATEGY & THEORY OF CHANGE

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THEORY OF CHANGE

Innovation requires gradual and long-term investment to achieve transformative change: establishing the infrastructure; advancing staff skills; and scaling new approaches.

1 INSPIRE

- New ways of doing business
- Pilot projects

- Implemented ongoing DPPA innovation projects
- Solidified establishment of Innovation Cell
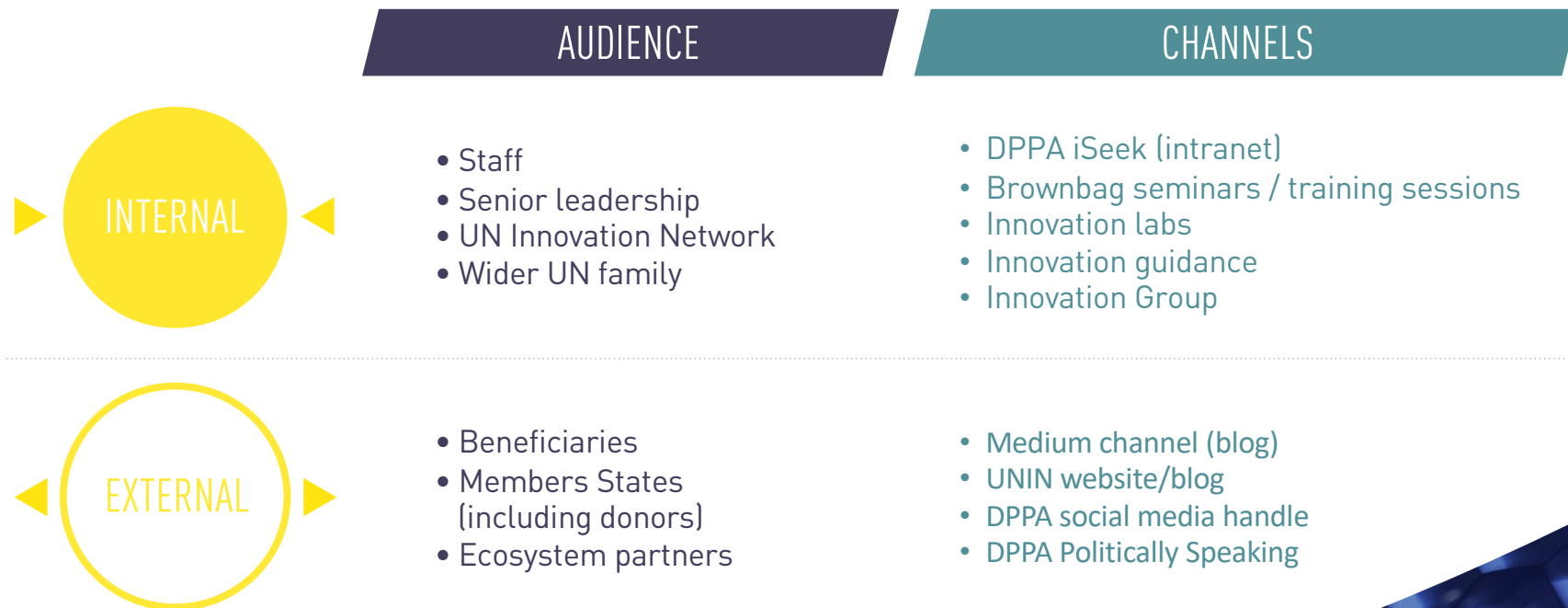- Established physical "Innovation Space" for design thinking and ideation

2 BUILD

- Culture of innovation
- Capacity of staff

- Increased opportunity for learning and experimentation
- Expanded buy-in from decision-makers

3 GROW

- Innovation at scale
- Sustainable change

- Embedded and long-lived innovation
- Diversified partnerships with innovators and tech companies outside the UN system
- Scaled innovation projects in the field and transferable methodologies

COMMUNICATION

Innovation requires communication across the board to share lessons learnt, inspire new ideas, and forge partnerships.

AUDIENCE	CHANNELS

INTERNAL

Audience
- Staff
- Senior leadership
- UN Innovation Network
- Wider UN family

Channels
- DPPA iSeek (intranet)
- Brownbag seminars / training sessions
- Innovation labs
- Innovation guidance
- Innovation Group

EXTERNAL

Audience
- Beneficiaries
- Members States (including donors)
- Ecosystem partners

Channels
- Medium channel (blog)
- UNIN website/blog
- DPPA social media handle
- DPPA Politically Speaking

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MEASURING SUCCESS

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

Monitoring and evaluating success and failures are key for us, understanding that innovation is an ongoing process.

RELEVANT	▶	New way or empirical approach to prevent or end violent conflict
ORIGINAL	▶	Doing different things and doing things differently
DESIRABLE	▶	Clear use-case, problem-definition based on needs
FEASIBLE	▶	Technically and organizationally doable
BENEFICIAL	▶	Helps the wider peace and security community
INTERDISCIPLINARY	▶	Draws on multiple disciplines
COLLABORATIVE	▶	Public-private partnerships considered, and regionally diverse
MEASURABLE	▶	End user-needs considered with baseline, specific targets and timeframe
SCALABLE	▶	Method is transparent and open source
SUSTAINABLE	▶	Maintenance and follow-up costs considered

CONTACT

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