

TEMPLATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CONTRIBUTIONS



2020 Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

*Digital transformation to accelerate achievement of the SDGs
– Digital development, partnerships and funding*

6-7 October 2020, 12:00 – 15:00 CAR (Virtual meeting)

with preparatory break-out sessions on 5 October 2020 (12:00 – 13:30 CAT time)

CONTRIBUTION BY POTRAZ, Zimbabwe

TITLE: Harare Regional Internet Exchange Point

EXPECTED DURATION OF PRESENTATION: [5 minutes]

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❖ **Africa Regional Initiatives:** [Select the Regional Initiative(s) relevant for your contribution]

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 1 – Building digital economies and fostering innovation in Africa

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 2 – Promotion of emerging broadband technologies

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 3 – Building trust and security in the use of telecommunications/
information and communication technology

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 4 – Strengthening human and institutional capacity building

[Yes/No] AFR Regional initiative 5 – Management and monitoring of the radio-frequency spectrum
and transition to digital broadcasting

❖ **Related ITU development thematic:** [Select the thematic area(s) relevant for your
contribution]

[Yes/No] Networks and digital infrastructure

[Yes/No] Cybersecurity

[Yes/No] Emergency telecommunications

[Yes/No] Environment

[Yes/No] Digital policy and regulation

[Yes/No] Capacity development

[Yes/No] Digital services and applications

[Yes/No] Digital inclusion

[Yes/No] Digital innovation ecosystems

[Yes/No] Statistics and data for evidence-based decision making

❖ **Year(s) of implementation:** [Select the year(s) for which your action/project/initiative is
relevant]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Yes/No] 2018	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Yes/No] 2019	[Yes/No] 2020	[Yes/No] 2021	[Yes/No] Others
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- ❖ COVID-19 response related initiative: [Please indicate if your action/project/initiative is relevant for COVID-19 response]

[Yes/No] COVID-19 response related initiative

Background [max 300 words]

In 2015 POTRAZ participated in the AFRICAN UNION (AU) Regional Internet Exchanges Initiative and successfully lodged a bid to host the Regional Internet Exchange. POTRAZ was awarded a USD 200,000 grant by the African Union Commission (AUC) to setup Regional Internet Exchange Point (IXP). The Grant covered Capacity Building, IXP Equipment (Routers, Switches, Servers, UPS Power Backup, Installation and Setup).

The setting up of the IXP was completed with the assistance of Nishal Goburdhan who works at Johannesburg Internet Exchange (JINX). The RIXP is housed at TelOne Exchange in the second floor. To date all Internet Access Providers are connected. The IXP has two international peers namely Packet Clearing House and Quad Nine Secure DNS. The benefit of the Regional IXP is to keep local traffic local thereby increasing speed, at the same time reduce costs and load on international transit links. In line with international best practice, the RIXP was named Harare Internet Exchange Point.

The website for the IXP is www.hix.org.zw

Proposal [max 400 words]

1. Potraz is proposing to handover the management of the IXP to the community as per the initial plan.
2. The HIX now needs to develop into a proper Regional IXP. In order for this to happen, there is need for it to attract more regional players to connect and peer at the IXP.
3. We propose to peer the Harare Regional IXP with the Zimbabwe Internet exchange in order to create a single IXP, which is attractive to international, and Regional Peers.
4. Various members proposed the hosting of a google a cache at the IXP. The centrality of the IXP makes it the best place to host such Content Delivery Networks and allow all service providers to have access to these CNDs faster and cheaper. It will also be an advantageous to Zimbabwe if a google cache is housed at the IXP than individual ISPs hosting their own caches, which demand more than 2GBps to fill up the Caches.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE CONTRIBUTION BY 15 SEPTEMBER TO ITU-RO-AFRICA@ITU.INT

