**RWANDA CONTRIBUTION TO CWG-INTERNATIONAL INTERNET RELATED PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES.**

1. **COUNTRY EXPRIENCE**

Internet in Rwanda started in 1998 and every ISP had its own international gateway. Rwanda Internet Exchange (RINEX) was set up in 2004 as an interconnection point of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Rwanda.

RINEX was managed on a voluntary basis by members from the different stakeholders. The challenge with this structure was that there was lack of day to day management of the operations of RINEX. In case of an issue happening on RINEX, none of the parties was willing to take the responsibility over RINEX.

One of the issues faced during internet service implementation in Rwanda was that even the Country Top Level Domain name (ccTLD) was managed outside the country.

It was also at the same period that country was putting in place the policy and regulatory framework for proper management and governance of ICTs in Rwanda.

Rwanda as a land locked country was obliged to use expensive satellite links for internet services. This limited the penetration of internet services due to high costs. Since 2012, with the use of sub marine links and East African Community market expansion, the internet usage increased and consequently both national and international traffic exponentially increased.

For cost and traffic efficiency, the establishment of Internet Exchange Points at the national and regional levels have become mandatory to keep home traffic at home and regional traffic in the region.

1. **KEY CHALLENGES** 
   1. Management of unbalanced traffic between peering entities
   2. Cost effective Location/Hosting of IXPs enabling easy access of ISPs
   3. The issue of costing of the peering links between regional IXPs
   4. Governance issues of regional traffic exchange
2. **CONCLUSION**

Clear legal and regulatory framework is required in order to implement an efficient IXP.

At the regional level, a clear governance system should be in place in order to ensure continuous, highly secured and protected network infrastructure.

As a good practice, it is recommended to implement a cashing system that will keep most visited international content for local use.