**Directorate for Telecommunciations**

**PROPOSAL BY COSTA RICA**

**Fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF)**

**I. Child Online Protection (COP) Global Initiative (secure networks)**

The Internet in recent years has become an indispensable tool for personal development in a society that is becoming more digitalized and modern by the day. The rapid growth in the availability of new tools such as social networks has created a situation in which children and young people have to make use of the Internet from an early age.

This fact, combined with the lack of awareness among some parents and teachers of the potential opportunities – and the potential hazards − of the “virtual” world, creates a new challenge for governments. This being the case, it is important to foster opportunities for dialogue and education in order to ensure that the public policies that are adopted will help us to enjoy the full benefits of the technology while safeguarding against its potential hazards.

With this global situation in mind, the Government of Costa Rica has attributed due importance to this topic and has become actively engaged in specific initiatives. Our President Laura Chinchilla has been official Patron of ITU’s COP Global initiative since 2010.

Given the importance of this subject, creating specific opportunities for dialogue on this topic within the framework of the Fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) would be a welcome initiative. Such opportunities would make it possible to disseminate information on progressive public policies implemented by various countries and would invite discussion and efforts to seek appropriate solutions among States in an area of great current importance.

**II. E-waste**

In the general context of public policy under development in the telecommunication sector, we would highlight the importance of clearly defined courses of action for the comprehensive management of e-waste in the Latin American region.

The upward trend in penetration of mobile telephony, digital TV and Internet use brings with it environmental challenges linked to the mass use of end-product devices.

Hence the need for means of averting the potentially adverse environmental consequences of telecommunications development. With this in mind we recommend that the advances made in comprehensive waste management should be one of the focal areas of discussion at the Fifth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum. Inclusion of this item will enable us to debate and disseminate good practices in this area of public policy as implemented by countries like Costa Rica, which recently adopted a General Law on waste and Regulations for the comprehensive management of e-waste.