

POGO Statement

The Partnership for Observation of a Global Ocean and our sister organisation within Ocean United welcome the opportunity to participate in GEO and to speak today.

The oceans cover 71% of the surface of our planet and contain 97% of our available water. Oceans impact directly on every one of the 9 GEO societal benefit areas and are a fundamental part of our earth system. To understand the way our world works we must observe and understand the oceans.

But our existing global coverage is incomplete. These systems provide data, products and warnings on areas as diverse as climate and climate change, of El Niño and hurricanes, on tsunamis, rising sea levels and coastal flooding, on ecosystem and human health, biodiversity and on energy and other resources.

Our observing arrays need completing, but it is equally important to maintain existing and developing systems with appropriate commitments to sustain these in to the future.