

Organisation: Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO)

Presenter: Dr Lilian Krug, POGO's Scientific Coordinator

Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Members of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) – a global consortium of 60 leading oceanographic institutions – convened in Nice to reaffirm a shared commitment: **without data, there can be no action.**

We issued a global call for urgent, sustained investment in ocean observations. Despite advances in monitoring, biological and chemical observations remain severely underdeveloped – particularly in regions most vulnerable to climate and environmental pressures.

Ocean observations are key to achieving SDG14, delivering on the Paris Agreement, KMGBF, BBNJ, and other ocean-related commitments. Meeting these commitments depends on our capacity to observe, understand, and respond to changes in the ocean because it so profoundly affects all other global systems.

The UNOC Declaration rightly highlights the multiple threats facing the ocean. But declarations alone are not enough. To measure progress and respond effectively depends on robust, sustained, and globally distributed ocean data. **Monitoring is the foundation of action.**

Without ocean observations, we cannot track change in the ocean and its impact on terrestrial environments, manage marine resources, or develop early warning systems to protect lives and livelihoods.

Achieving the 2030 targets requires dedicated funding, enhanced capacity, and inclusive international partnerships to strengthen ocean observing systems, especially in underserved regions.

Ocean observations are not a luxury. They are the backbone of science-based decision-making, climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development. **The time to act – and invest – is now,** so that no part of the global ocean, or the communities that depend on it, are left behind.

Thank you.