

## IOC intervention at GEO-XII Plenary, Mexico City, 12 November 2015

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO brings 147 Member States together to collaborate in ocean science, observations, and services. IOC leads the coordination of the Global Ocean Observing System GOOS, which aims to deliver the sustained observations needed to support goals in disaster risk reduction, an efficient blue economy, to sustain ocean health, and in climate (together with GCOS).

Looking forward, IOC particularly welcomes the GEO Strategic Plan's:

- Focus on building GEOSS
- Its scope building on the contributions of its Members and Participating Organizations
- Its understanding that the SBAs are underpinned by research and observations of all domains including the ocean,
- And its identification of the need for stronger relationships with complementary global Earth observing organizations.

The IOC remains committed to contributing to GEO, and convinced of the potential of GEO's "Blue Planet". GOOS will work with others, particularly with POGO and CEOS, to strengthen what has been a community activity into an engaged, managed, funded, and relevant Blue Planet initiative that will demonstrate and deliver societal benefit from ocean information. It will build on a foundation of sustained observations, both in situ and from space, and a strong element of capacity development.

When Blue Planet was presented to GEO Plenary for the first time in 2012, we as a community emphasized the cross-cutting need for ocean observations to support each of GEO's SBAs at the time. We remain convinced that ocean information remains crucial for all of GEO's revised SBAs, and not only at the coast.

In the Blue Planet context let me also highlight the European Commission's Horizon 2020 AtlantOS project, where IOC is one of more than 60 partners working to improve and innovate Atlantic observing to obtain a more sustainable, efficient, integrated, and fit-for-purpose Atlantic Observing System. This joins another GOOS development project for the Tropical Pacific Observing System in 2020, particularly relevant in this El Niño year.

Partnerships are not always easy to negotiate, whether for GOOS, Blue Planet, or GEOSS. But the effort becomes well worth it as we add onto each other's comparative advantages, avoid duplication of effort, and work together to deliver integrated Earth Observation information for societal benefit, which is the promise of GEO.

Thank you, and a particular thank you to Mexico for the organization of this Plenary.