



Collective Statement from Nautilus Project - Policy Round Table Supporting Ocean Observations

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We, the organisers of NAUTILOS Project Policy Round Table on the Importance of Ocean Observation in the Context of a Changing Climate, recognise the critical role that ocean observation plays in understanding and mitigating the impact of climate change. The key messages derived from our discussion unanimously underscore the urgent necessity to enhance our knowledge, extending data collection, and promoting collaborative efforts to protect and sustain our ocean.

Ocean Protection:

We emphasise the imperative of smart ocean protection through knowledge, observation and comprehensive data collection. Effective policies and decisions must be informed by the best available ocean knowledge to prevent fault action and safeguard our marine ecosystems.

Global Collaboration:

While acknowledging progress has been made in worldwide cooperation and observation efforts, we are still witnessing persistent fragmentation and overlaps. To address the complex challenges of climate change, we appeal for strengthened global cooperation, coordination, and data sharing across the spectrum of stakeholders.

Citizen Science and Engagement:

We recognise the vital role of citizen participation, exemplified by initiatives like the Ocean Race, in ocean data collection. Citizen science and public engagement are essential to both expanding our knowledge base and fostering a sense of urgency and mutual responsibility for ocean conservation.

EU Missions and Collaboration:

We endorse the concept of EU Missions to tackle significant challenges with ambitious goals by 2030. The EU's commitment to "Restore Our Ocean and Waters" Mission aligns with our collective vision for ecosystem protection, pollution prevention and a carbon-neutral circular blue economy.

Data Integration and Accessibility:

Efforts like EMODnet contribute significantly by aggregating, standardising, and making ocean data accessible. Integration of existing marine observation assets with digital technologies, such as the EU Digital Twin of the Ocean, empowers policy implementation, sustainable business models and society engagement.

Challenges and Commitment:

We recognize the challenges posed by data gaps, technology advancement, stakeholder engagement, and political considerations. Our commitment remains steadfast in supporting ocean observation initiatives.

Collaborative Success:

The success of our endeavors is intrinsically tied to collaboration. We acknowledge that progress is achieved through the joint efforts of stakeholders, and we are dedicated to supporting each other, sharing ideas and finding solutions together.

As representatives of the NAUTILOS Project, we reaffirm our shared pledge to advancing ocean observation, promoting sustainable practices and handling the challenges of a changing climate. Our work is fueled by the knowledge that informed decisions and collective action are indispensable in ensuring the well-being of our ocean and the planet as a whole.