UN Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

**Background:**

Regular Assessment was agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002), recognising that the Oceans play an important role in meeting Millenium Development Goals.

Intergovernmental process, guided by international law.
Start-up phase

- Start-up phase was the “Assessment of assessments”, requested by governments to serve as one of the main foundations for the Regular Process.
- Co-lead by IOC and UNEP.
- Concluded in 2009.
- It built on the work done by other international forums and, either directly or indirectly through those forums, by national authorities concerned with the marine environment.
Why are assessments necessary?

• To better understand the status, trends, interrelations, scenarios and predictions in ecosystem conditions, goods, services, stress and non-use values to humans and vulnerability, resilience, and adaptability.

• To gain a better understanding of how human activities put pressure on and impact ecosystems.

• To develop responses and policy options.
Why is a regular assessment of the marine environment required?

• Need for a clear overview at the national, regional and global levels.

• There are currently relatively few marine areas subjected to broadly based assessments.

• There is a lack of overview of the links between the state of the marine environment and cross cutting issues of human health, seafood safety and sustainable fisheries.

• Needed to inform decision making.
• Need for capacity building: the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the World Bank and the donor community should be encouraged to interact with the Regular Process with regard to capacity building.

• Improving knowledge and analysis: The design and objectives of the existing assessment processes must be standardized. 2-way communication between policymakers and scientific experts vital to guarantee that the right scientific knowledge is produced to fill policy-related gaps.

• Enhancing networking to avoid duplication and to link science to policy.

• Effective communication, education and public awareness and data management/sharing.
Relevance to POGO?

Assessment should be based on sound scientific information and adequate data on all aspects of the marine environment collected on a regular basis.

Expertise resides in POGO member institutions. But are they involved?

Additional justification for enhanced ocean observations at the global scale.
How might POGO be involved?

The model that is being pursued may be similar to the IPCC.

The options for POGO might be
- Through individual members acting at the national level
- Through joint actions with IOC
- Through POGO seeking consultative status.