GOA-ON contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015 by the United Nations, contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 14, life below water, is to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources," and consists of 10 targets. Of particular interest to the GOA-ON community is target 14.3, "minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through scientific cooperation at all levels."

GOA-ON directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 14.3. At the June 2017 UN Oceans Conference, which focused on SDG 14, GOA-ON made a voluntary commitment to expand the spatial and temporal coverage of ocean acidification observations around the world, and participated in multiple side events as well as the Partnership Dialogue on ocean acidification. In addition, GOA-ON has joined forces with several partner organizations to conduct capacity building workshops around the world, which consist of lectures, practical training, and, in some cases, the provision of sensing equipment to local scientists.

In January 2018, multiple GOA-ON members met in Paris at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO to develop the indicator methodology for target 14.3 ("average marine acidity measured at an agreed suite of representative sampling stations"). The methodology, similar to a recipe, provides guidance to scientists and countries in terms of what measurements are needed and how often, as well as how to report the collected information. In this way, GOA-ON is leveraging its scientific and policy expertise to develop a guiding vision for how ocean chemistry – and eventually biology – data can be collected and shared worldwide in support of the Sustainable Development Agenda.