

FOR UNIVERSAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
BASED ON KNOWLEDGE  
AND EXCELLENCE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

At the Summit held in New York on 25 September 2015, 193 countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on 17 goals and 169 targets aimed at ending all forms of poverty and tackling inequalities in a changing world.

The Sustainable Development Goals aim to transform our societies by making them fairer, more peaceful and more prosperous while protecting our planet. They call for universal commitment and must be based on scientific knowledge.

To support this global initiative, the CNRS is developing knowledge, innovationand partnerships.

CNRS research covers all scientific disciplines, thus, we can address the issues specific to each of the goals as well as those that cut across several goals, such as climate-ocean-water-health or water-energy-food-biodiversity-education.

The creativity and freedom of the CNRS researchers lead to discoveries and innovations that contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Research at the CNRS is resolutely international and increasingly multi-stakeholder and is a powerful vector for partnerships at every level. The CNRS makes a strong contribution towards exchanges between countries and academic, economic, financial, political, voluntary and other sectors.

The CNRS is involved in national and international initiatives to tackle the challenges of sustainable development: it is a member of the Observatoire national sur le changement climatique, of the Fondation pour la recherche sur la biodiversité, and is host to Future Earth’s Global Hub and the European division of the Urban Climate Change Research Network. It also provides its researchers’ expertise on the United Nations panels for climate and biodiversity (IPCC, IPBES).

A ‘CNRS Agenda 2030’ Task Force has been formed alongside CNRS management to translate the political agenda into scientific questions, to promote discoveries and leverage innovations that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. It can be reached at [agenda2030@cnrs.fr](mailto:agenda2030@cnrs.fr)



THE SDGS AT THE CNRS,  
AN OVERVIEW

**1 | No poverty**

Where sociology, geography, urbanism, law and history merge, issues related to poverty are dealt with in a large number of the CNRS publications, which look at the effectiveness of public policies in light of the diverse mechanisms that lead to hardship.

**2 | Zero hunger**

The CNRS has set up the ‘Food’ network, based on historical perspective on the interactions between people and their environment, globalisation, population ageing and consideration for different life paths.

**3 | Good health and well-being**

From pathogenic viruses and bacteria (Ebola, hepatitis, tuberculosis, etc.), to mental health and well-being, ageing and the effects of environmental disturbances, health research at the CNRS is far-reaching. Recently, researchers have identified a marker that differentiates ‘dormant’ HIV-infected cells from healthy cells.

**4 | Quality education**

Educational issues are the subject of numerous thematic research topics at the CNRS (cognition, digital, pedagogy, etc.). As a partner of universities and a promoter of open science, the CNRS is the main channel for disseminating knowledge to society, decision-makers and the media.

**5 | Gender equality**

The CNRS is a pioneer and benchmark in higher education and research with the set-up of its own ‘Women at the CNRS task force’, and has also created a ‘Gender Institute’ while coordinating several European projects for gender equality.

**6 | Clean water and sanitation**

Partnership research on access and the conflicts related to water, the invention of new filtration processes and collective scientific expertise on eutrophication (algae pollution and proliferation) are all topics addressed scientifically by the CNRS to provide input for decision-making.

**7 | Affordable and clean energy**

The CNRS has set up an Energy Unit and is an incubator for start-ups, some of which have won major global innovation awards. The energy transition is at the core of its research programmes: storing energy in large quantities, developing new resources such as hydrogen and biofuels, and analysing social and territorial issues.

**8 | Decent work and economic growth**

The CNRS conducts research on occupational health, French and foreign labour market standards, what happens when entitlement to unemployment benefit ends, and other topics. The CNRS is engaged in the PAUSE programme which hosts scientists in exile and has also received the European HRS4R label of excellence for its human resources policy.

**9 | Industry, innovation and infrastructure**

Every year, the CNRS Innovation subsidiary enables the emergence of a large number of start-ups that exploit the results of fundamental research. In addition, work on networks, infrastructures and industrial innovations are subject to research in the fields of sociology and innovation law, engineering and chemistry.

**10 | Reduced inequalities**

The CNRS was involved in the set-up of the Sociological Observatory of Change and heads research on different types of inequality, which may be socio-economic, spatial, ethnic, educational, etc.

**11 | Sustainable cities and communities**

Research in this field calls on a wide range of disciplines to understand the complexity of urban issues: smart cities, urban ecology, infrastructure and mobility, risks and quality of life.

**12 | Responsible consumption and production**

Analysis of socio-ecological transitions forms the core of the work led by the CNRS. It concerns both the development of the circular economy and experiments in agriculture, as well as soil decontamination and environmental and social impact studies relating to ICTs.

**13 | Climate action**

The complexity of climate change, its interactions with systems (water cycle, oceans, etc.) and the influence of human activities are the subject of an array of multidisciplinary research projects that aim to understand the impacts on our planet. With satellite images and observations, and modelling and experiments, the CNRS supports and contributes to the deployment of world-class infrastructures.

**14 | Life below water**

From the coast to the deep sea, the ocean is studied in all its forms at the CNRS, from physical, biological and ecological viewpoints and from a historical, legal and socio-political perspective. Research on its interactions and dynamics, its functions and vulnerabilities, and its uses and services enable new discoveries and understanding of the links with climate change and global issues.

**15 | Life on land**

CNRS teams lead work on biodiversity hotspots and are recognised for their expertise in paleoenvironmental approaches, ecosystem modelling, and analysis of ecosystem services (pollination, biomass, etc.).

**16 | Peace, justice and strong institutions**

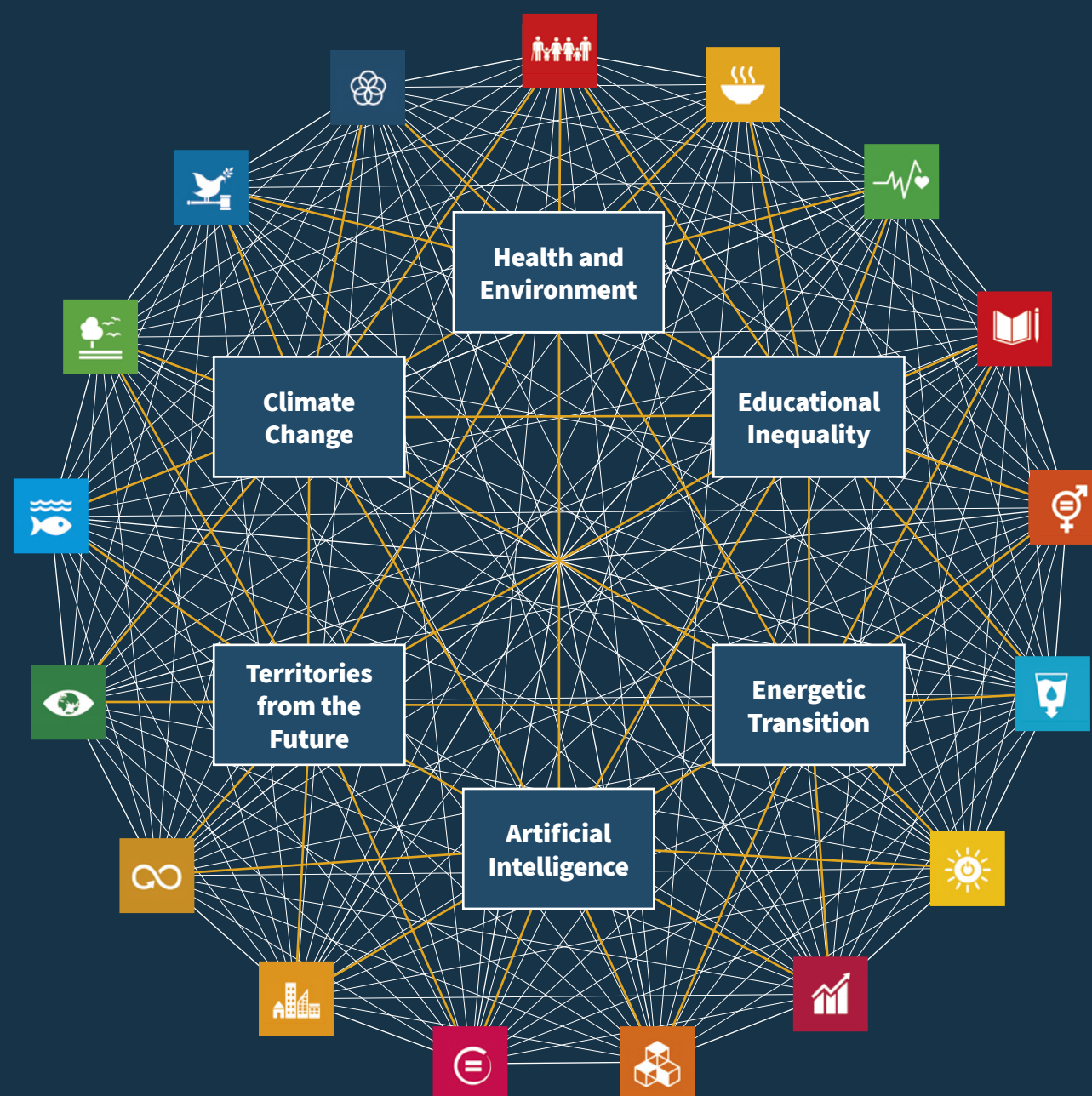
Many researchers look at how societies are governed and analyse institutional innovations and issues of justice and democracy. Teams of multidisciplinary experts are involved in projects such as ‘Ordinary practices and representations in relation to the State’.

**17 | Partnerships for the goals**

The CNRS is, by nature, a multidisciplinary organisation, leading partnerships with many public and private stakeholders (universities and research bodies, companies and associations, etc.) and is very active in international decision-making bodies (Belmont Forum, Gender-net plus, Future Earth, UN Conferences). Convinced of the importance of greater interdisciplinary dialogue, it has also set up a special task force – the Mission for interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary initiatives, or MITI.



# CNRS PRIORITIES AT THE HEART OF THE ODD



## THE CNRS, IN BRIEF

### PRODUCING KNOWLEDGE

With more than 15,000 researchers and over 16,000 engineers and technicians, the CNRS is a leader in world research. More than 50,000 scientific publications are produced annually from its 1,000-plus laboratories, putting the CNRS in the top 5 of several international rankings (Nature Index, Scimago Institutions Rankings, etc.).

### DRIVING INNOVATION

The CNRS has signed framework agreements with more than 20 major industrial groups and has more than 150 joint research structures involving companies. With a portfolio of more than 5,800 patent families, the CNRS is the 6th largest patent applicant in France (INPI).

### A TALENT SPOTTER

22 Nobel prize winners and 12 Fields Medal winners have worked in CNRS joint research units. Almost 600 researchers have been awarded a grant from the European Research Council (ERC).

### A PARTNER FOR UNIVERSITIES

The CNRS forges strong partnerships with universities in its joint research units. It is also involved in site policies.

### AN INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTOR

The CNRS contributes to the recognition of French research in the world and within the European Research Area, running 75 international research laboratories, and 1,400 European research contracts and 8 representative offices abroad.

### START-UP CREATOR

The CNRS has introduced a policy to support and encourage the creation of companies within its laboratories to guarantee the effective transfer of technologies. Every year, CNRS scientists help create around 100 start-ups.

### SHARING KNOWLEDGE

The CNRS shares research results to the general public through a journal, online news, events and in an original format on social media..

### OPERATING LARGE FACILITIES

The CNRS is involved in the design and operation of some very large facilities used by all the disciplines, including telescopes, particle accelerators, computers and large databases.



## THE CNRS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ON THE 2030 AGENDA



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