



*The Director of INSU*

*To Head Office Management of the National Center for Atmospheric Research*

December 23rd, 2025

With this message, the head office of the National Institute for Earth and Space Sciences of CNRS (INSU), France, wishes to express its deepest concerns to the management of the NCAR regarding the dismantling plans announced by the White House.

This condemnation does not only affect American research and its place in the global effort to understand our planet and its climate. In fact, it is one of the pillars of global research on the Earth system that is being dismantled.

For 60 years, NCAR has been one of the world's leading centers for atmospheric science: a national laboratory supported by the NSF that brings together fundamental research, infrastructure, and services for the academic community. Its scientific output covers atmospheric physics and chemistry, the study of aerosols and pollution, the dynamics of extreme weather systems, and climate change. For many colleagues in the INSU communities, their time in Boulder, Colorado, was an important step in their scientific development.

NCAR deploys rare resources on an international scale: supercomputers, research aircraft, radars, and observation databases that enable answers to questions ranging from cloud microphysics to global climate modeling. It produces and maintains leading platforms and models (e.g., WRF for meteorology and CESM for the Earth system), used by thousands of researchers and operational services around the world. Cutting or reducing these functions would quickly affect the global community.

As humanity prepares to face what is undoubtedly the most crucial existential crisis in its history through climate change, more than ever does it need science and data to regain control of its destiny, and to combat climate change and environmental crises with unprecedented vigor, while also adapting to largely unknown climatic conditions and risks. It is urgent that we make our communities, infrastructure, and research capabilities stronger, more resilient, and more sovereign.

Nicolas ARNAUD

Director of INSU

