

**Consortium of WMO Education and Training  
Collaborating Partners - CONECT**

**Report of the first meeting of the Management  
Group (MG-1)**

**19 July 2023  
(Online meeting)**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The first meeting of the CONECT Management Group** was held online on 19 July 2023, starting with 14.00 Geneva time. The meeting was opened and chaired by Dr Winifred Jordaan, Acting Chair of the Management Group.

During the meeting, the MG was informed about the actions conducted by the Secretariat. Members of the MG discussed organizational issues, the structure of the Working Groups, new membership in CONECT, and the way of identifying the competencies of the members.

**Action 1:** The CONECT public pages in the ETRP Moodle site will be populated with needed information to advertise the activities of the Consortium

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat

**Deadline:** 31 July 2023

**Action 2:** A restricted page in the CONECT section of the ETRP Moodle site will be created for the activities of the MG. This will contain sub-pages dedicated to each of the WGs.

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat

**Deadline:** 25 July 2023

**Action 3:** volunteers from the MG are identified for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions in each of the WGs

**Actionee(s):** MG

**Deadline:** 15 August 2023

**Action 4:** Details regarding the branding are identified, letters of recognition of membership in the MG of CONECT issued

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat, CMG

**Deadline:** 15 August 2023

**Action 5:** The procedure for acceptance of new members in CONECT is made available on the public page of CONECT

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat, MG

**Deadline:** 31 July 2023

**Action 6:** Secretariat to submit to the MG a template for identifying the competencies and commitments of the CONECT Members.

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat

**Deadline:** 31 July 2023

**Action 7:** Secretariat to submit to the MG a template for identifying the competencies for the independent experts.

**Actionee(s):** Bernie Cornell, Secretariat

**Deadline:** 31 July 2023

## **FULL REPORT**

## 1. Opening of CDP-7 and adoption of the Agenda

The first meeting of the Management Group (MG) of the Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating partners (CONNECT) was held in a virtual format on 19 July 2023 between 14 and 16 Geneva time. The meeting was opened and chaired by Dr Winifred Jordaan (CMG), the Chair of CONNECT at 14.00 Geneva time.

In her opening remarks, CMG welcomed members of the MG to the first meeting of MG and congratulated them on their election in the MG of the new WMO initiative. CMG highlighted the importance and the impact of this structure and the responsibility of the MG in coordinating the efforts of CONNECT Members in education and training. Following the opening remarks, the Chair invited the MG to review the [Agenda](#), which was adopted as presented.

### 1. ACTIONS FROM SECRETARIAT SINCE CONECT-1

The Secretariat updated the MG on the status of the platform of communication and visibility of CONNECT, and on the branding of CONNECT. The status was presented by Dr Paul Bugeac (Member Services/ETR).

The members of the MG appreciated the status of the CONNECT webpage, and suggested improvements. Amongst others, a restricted area dedicated to activities of the MG was considered important and lucrative. The official page of CONNECT needs to present information on the goal and activities in a modern and professional way.

The MG discussed the means of recognition of their membership in the CONNECT MG and highlighted the importance of branding under the aegis of WMO.

**Action 1:** The CONNECT public pages in the ETRP Moodle site will be populated with needed information to advertise the activities of the Consortium

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat

**Deadline:** 31 July 2023

## 2. PLANNING OF WORK OF CONECT Working Groups

CMG briefly reviewed the objectives of each of the five WGs, mentioning that the number and the outcomes can be improved, based on the identified needs and discoveries.

Group 1: Promoting BIPs and competency frameworks implementation

Group 2: Training resources

Group 3 Communication and outreach of CONNECT and GC Initiative

Group 4: Workforce/Human resources

Group 5: Pedagogical aspects

The discussions started on the structure of the WGs, in which was decided that at least the chair of the WGs should be a member of the MG to assure the bi-directional communication, on a voluntary basis (self-nomination). Also was decided that each WG should have a chairperson, a vice-chair and collaborating members nominated from the organization's members of CONNECT. The membership in

WGs was also discussed, and the participation should be from the CONECT members organization. One of the issues raised was regarding to the participation of experts in different fields, not related to the CONECT members. This issue remained open.

MG requested Secretariat to open forums dedicated to each of the WGs, at the beginning for membership nominations. The number of members in each of the WGs will be discussed in the next meeting. The structure of the dedicated pages will be dynamic, and the Secretariat will have to maintain it.

**Action 2:** A restricted page in the CONECT section of the ETRP Moodle site will be created for the activities of the MG. This will contain sub-pages dedicated to each of the WGs.

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat

**Deadline:** 25 July 2023

**Action 3:** Volunteers from the MG are identified for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions in each of the WGs

**Actionee(s):** MG

**Deadline:** 15 August 2023

**Action 4:** Details regarding the branding are identified, letters of recognition of membership in the MG of CONECT issued

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat, CMG

**Deadline:** 15 August 2023

### 3. NEW MEMBERS

Discussions were conducted regarding the new members of CONECT, which should be the profile of the new members. The new members will need to show how they can contribute. CMG showed that the membership should be wide open, but based on their potential and profile of activities that can contribute to WMO strategic approach in education and training. Also it was discussed that the members should be open to contribute to GC.

CMG asked the MG and the Secretariat which should be the process for application to CONECT. Secretariat reiterated that this is the competence of the MG. Discussions concluded that proposals for membership and applications should go to any of the members of the MG, who should submit them to the CMG to centralize. The process was approved as follows:

Step 1: Nominations should be sent to any of the members of the MG, this should compulsory contain how the new member can contribute to the WMO GC

Step 2: Nominations should be analysed by the members of the MG from the region concerned for clearance

Step 3: Voting the acceptance

**Action 5:** The procedure for acceptance of new members in CONECT is made available on the public page of CONECT

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat, MG

**Deadline:** 31 July 2023

## 4. IDENTIFY THE POTENTIAL OF CONECT MEMBERS

Secretariat suggested to the members of the MG as a solution of using the full potential of CONECT to identify the areas of expertise of the each of the education and training institution, and their availability. MG accepted the idea and identified some of the information needed from the members. Discussions were made to clarify that the nominated individuals are the representatives of their institutions, and the declared competencies are of the education and training institution, and not of the individual. A pool of independent experts should be also identified, with the same characteristics as the Member organizations.

The following information was identified:

Areas of expertise, languages, availability of trainers for each area of expertise.

**Action 6:** Secretariat to submit to the MG a template for identifying the competencies and commitments of the CONECT Members, and also for the individual experts.

**Actionee(s):** Secretariat, MG

**Deadline:** 31 August 2023

**Action 7:** Secretariat to submit to the MG a template for identifying the competencies for the independent experts.

**Actionee(s):** Bernie Cornell, Secretariat

**Deadline:** 31 July 2023

The description table will be circulated first between the MG before being public on the CONECT page.

## 5. NEXT MEETING OF THE MG

CMG proposed to have quarterly meetings, being at the beginning of the activities, and a lot of organizational issues might need decisions of the MG. The proposal was accepted by all members.

Next meeting of the MG will be organized in October 2023 (online) at a date that will be established later

**Next Plenary of CONECT will be graciously hosted by China/Beijing mid- to late October 2024.**

## 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Dr Jordaan thanked all Members of the Management Group for their contributions and commitment to the activities of CONECT and closed the meeting at 16.00 Geneva time.

## **ANNEXES**



## Annex-I List of Participants to CONECT MG

**Chair:** Winifred Jordaan

**Vice-chair:** Vagner Anabor

**Vice-chair:** Steven Callaghan

### Members:

1. Mick Pope
2. Bernadette Cornell
3. Marina Baldi
4. Solangela Edit Sánchez Cuevas
5. Mohamed Tawfik Abdeldayem
6. Barbara Bourdelles
7. Arpita Mandal
8. Michael Bala
9. Yu Yubin
10. Romina Nahir Mezher
11. Gaurishankar Kallappa Sawaisarje

### Missing members of the MG:

1. Valerii Mikheev
2. Diakaria Kone
3. Michelle Hardy
4. Nelly Florida Riama

### Secretariat: Paul Bugeac

