

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

**Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Management  
Group (CONECT-MG-2)**

**24 January 2024  
(Online meeting)**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second meeting of the CONECT Management Group was held online on 24 January 2024. The meeting was opened and chaired by Dr Winifred Jordaan, Chair of the Management Group.

During the meeting, the Management Group (MG) was informed about the actions conducted by the Secretariat. Members of the MG discussed organizational issues, decided on the chairing of the Working Groups, and agreed on the independent work to be conducted until the next meeting.

**Action 1:** Working Groups (WG) to submit a short document stating the goals of the WG and a list of initial activities. WG were also requested to communicate the dates of their planned meetings to the MG and WMO Secretariat.

**Actionee(s):** Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Working Groups

**Deadline:** To be completed by the end of February 2024

**Action 2:** Winifred to send invitation to CONECT Plenary members announcing the opportunity to join the WGs. Chairs and Vice-Chairs of WGs to collect the self-nominations for approval.

**Actionee(s):** Winifred, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Working Groups

**Deadline:** Aimed to complete by the next meeting of MG

**Action 3:** Include an item in the draft Agenda of CONECT-2 for Regional Group Discussions.

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

**Deadline:** Aimed to complete by the next meeting of MG

**Action 4:** MG volunteers to provide initial review and feedback on the selection of papers to be published in the new edition of the Global Campus Innovations.

**Actionee(s):** Marina B., Mick P., Stephen C., Bernie C., Romina M. and Lu V.

**Deadline:** Papers to be shared by Lu in April, feedback provided by volunteers in May

**Action 5:** Those who have training resources to share, to contact Lu Veeck to have access to the pilot solution and test submitting the resource to the WMO Global Campus Collection of Learning Resources.

**Actionee(s):** MG

**Deadline:** End of January

## **FULL REPORT**

## 1. Opening of CONECT MG-2 and adoption of the Agenda

The second meeting of the Management Group (MG) of the Consortium of WMO Education and Training Collaborating partners (CONECT) was held online on 24 January 2024. The meeting was opened and chaired by Dr Winifred Jordaan, the Chair of CONECT. The participants list is available in Annex I.

In her opening remarks, Dr Jordaan welcomed members of the MG to the second meeting of MG and introduced participants to the Agenda. The Agenda was adopted with no changes (see Annex II).

## 2. Nomination of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of CONECT Working Groups

Self-nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair of Working Groups have been received via Forum since the first meeting of the MG (July 2023). Nominations received by December 2023 were confirmed and additional nominations were made to fill the positions as follows:

### WG 1: Promoting BIP and Competency implementation.

Chair: Mohammed Tawfik  
Vice Chair: Barbara Bourdelles

### WG2: Training Resources

Chair: Mike Pope  
Vice Chair: Romina Mezher

### WG 3: Communications and outreach of CONET and Global Campus initiatives

Chair: Marina Baldi  
Vice Chair: Nelly Florida and Vagner Anabor

### WG4: Work Force/Human Resources

Chair: Valerii Micheev  
Vice Chair: Bernie Connell  
Volunteered to collaborate: Arpita Mendal

### WG 5: Approaches for consistent adoption of certificates and micro-credentials in training

Chair: YU Yubin  
Volunteered to collaborate: Lu Veeck (WMO Secretariat) and Vieri Tarchiani (RTC Italy, nominated by Marina Baldi)

Members confirmed their understanding of responsibilities and their availability to move forward the activities of the respective WGs.

In preparation for the meeting, members of the MG were requested to use the Forums at <https://etrp.wmo.int/course/view.php?id=319> to provide suggestions of activities for the WGs to implement in 2024. The Chair & Vice-Chair of WGs made short interventions regarding their initial ideas. All MG members were invited to continue providing suggestions in the Forums, so that WGs could prepare their individual plans of activities for 2024.

**Action 1:** Working Groups (WG) to submit a short document stating the goals of the WG and a list of proposed initial activities. WGs were also requested to communicate the dates of their planned meetings to the MG and WMO Secretariat.

**Actionee(s):** Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Working Groups

**Deadline:** To be completed the end of February 2024

### 3. Composition of CONECT Working Groups

In preparation for the discussions of this Agenda item, MG members received an introduction paper proposed by Steven Callaghan (Annex III). The paper, which was introduced by Steven during the meeting, contained information on decisions of CONECT regarding the composition of WGs, and posed questions on the process to be established for inviting and accepting individuals volunteering to contribute to the activities of the WGs.

After discussions, the Group agreed with the following forms of nominations for participation in the WGs:

- (a) Self-nominations - Individuals associated with CONECT Plenary member institutions some form of resume or other description of their expertise and experience. The management group vet the candidate and accept or reject the offer.
- (b) Nominations made by MG - Management Group can also nominate individuals.

The nominations should contain some form of resume or other description of the individual's expertise and experience. MG can vet the candidate and accept or reject the offer.

MG also agreed with the following process for self-nominations for WGs:

**Sending the invitation** - CONECT Chair will contact the CONECT Plenary members (group email) inviting self-nominations to collaborate in the WGs. The message from the Chair will instruct that self-nominations are sent directly to Chairs & Vice-Chairs of WGs. The email addresses of Chairs & Vice-Chairs of WGs will be indicated in Winifred's message.

**Collecting self-nominations** – The collection of self-nominations received will be under the responsibility of the Chairs & Vice-Chairs of WGs.

The Group suggested that the invitation from the CONECT Chair should be made to the Plenary after the WGs provide descriptions and a plan of activities.

**Action 2:** Winifred to send invitation to CONECT Plenary members announcing the opportunity to join the WGs. Chairs and Vice-Chairs of WGs to collect the self-nominations for approval.

**Actionee(s):** Winifred, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Working Groups

**Deadline:** Aimed to complete by the next meeting of MG

## 4. Consideration of Regional Aspects of CONECT

Steven Callaghan proposed the idea of forming CONECT Regional Groups in addition to the thematic working groups that have been initially proposed. This would enable CONECT to call regional meetings for participating institutions to come together to:

- Build and maintain networks of experts;
- Ensure mutual understanding of regional needs, capabilities, plans, and other aspects;
- Feed regional needs up to MG for awareness and to help developing plans for CONECT discussions and actions;
- Foster cooperation and collaboration between institutions that may share challenges, for example language, climate and others.

After deliberations, the Group agreed to have this proposal presented during the next CONECT Plenary Meeting (CONECT-2, China 22-24 October 2024). It was suggested that the Agenda of CONECT-2 could include the first “Regional Sessions”. During these sessions each Region could discuss and agree on the decision to create a CONECT Regional Group, and the details of how the groups would like to engage.

**Action 3:** Include an item in the draft Agenda of CONECT-2 for Regional Group Discussions.

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

**Deadline:** Aimed to complete by the next meeting of MG

## 5. Updates from ETR related to CONECT

WMO Secretariat presented some updates on actions and advice procured on behalf of CONECT and the WMO Global Campus Initiative. These are as follows:

### *Advice procured on branding and visual identity for CONECT and its relation to the Global Campus*

As CONECT is not part of WMO governance and has no legislative authority, it is not appropriate for CONECT to use the WMO headed paper for documents and communications of the CONECT Chair. In this regard, it is advisable that CONECT develops its own branding for a clear visual identity. Nevertheless, the WMO logo can be used in conjunction with the CONECT logo in the activities of the Consortium, as to indicate the support of WMO.

### *Planning of the 2024 Edition of the Global Campus Innovations publication*

A new edition of the publication Global Campus Innovations ([ETR-27](#), 2020) is under development. The deadline for submission of proposals was extended to mid-March. CONECT MG was invited to assist on the initial selection of proposals for publication and five members volunteered.

### *WMO Global Campus Collection of Learning Resources*

The Group was reminded that due to the software replacement for the WMO E-Library, the new system no longer supports the listing of external resources. This affected the Global Campus, as the E-Library cannot list shared training resources. To continue supporting the Global Campus community sharing resources, a new solution was developed using the ETRP Moodle platform. The “pilot solution”

is being tested prior wider communication to users. CONECT MG was invited to participate in the testing of the pilot solution.

**Action 4:** MG volunteers to provide initial review and feedback on the selection of papers to be published in the new edition of the Global Campus Innovations.

**Actionee(s):** Marina B., Mick P., Stephen C., Bernie C., Romina M. and Lu V.

**Deadline:** Papers to be shared by Lu in April, feedback provided by volunteers in May

**Action 5:** Those who have training resources to share, to contact Lu Veeck to have access to the pilot solution and test submitting the resource to the WMO Global Campus Collection of Learning Resources.

**Actionee(s):** MG

**Deadline:** End of January

## 6. NEXT MEETINGS

MG agreed to continue having quarterly meetings. Next meeting of the MG will be organized in May (online) at a date that will be confirmed by the Chair.

**Next Plenary of CONECT will be hosted by CMATC in Beijing, 22-24 October 2024.** The meeting will have a hybrid format of participation (face-to-face and online participation).

## 7. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

Final considerations were made on the suggestion to propose that in the future, the Plenary meetings of CONECT could take place back-to-back with a conference on education and training. The conference could be jointly organized with other networks working with education and training (CALMet, as an initial suggestion) and this could be a way to attract more participants to CONECT. A suggestion was made to discuss this proposal during the next CONECT Plenary meeting.

In summary, during this meeting CONECT MG agreed on Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the Working Groups. The plan of activities will be finalized by the WGs (February) and approved in the next MG meeting. The process for nominations to participate in the WGs was also agreed. Regarding forming CONECT Regional Groups, the proposal will be put to further discussion during the next Plenary meeting (October 2024). Members of the MG also volunteered to assist in the selection of papers to be published in the new edition of the Global Campus Innovations, and the testing of the new tool for the WMO Global Campus Collection of Learning Resources.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was suggested.

## 9. 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 16.30 Geneva time.



## **ANNEXES**

## **Annex-I List of Participants to CONECT-MG-2**

**Chair:** Winifred Jordaan

**Vice-chair:** Vagner Anabor

**Vice-chair:** Steven Callaghan

### **Members of MG:**

1. Mick Pope
2. Bernadette Cornell
3. Marina Baldi
4. Solangela Edit Sánchez Cuevas
5. Mohamed Tawfik Abdeldayem
6. Barbara Bourdelles
7. Michael Bala
8. Yu Yubin
9. Romina Nahir Mezher
10. Gaurishankar Kallappa Sawaisarje
11. Michelle Hardy
12. Valerii Mikheev
13. Anni A.F. representing Nelly Florida Riama (not available)

### **Notes of excuse received:**

1. Arpita Mandal

### **Missing members of the MG:**

1. Diakaria Kone

**WMO Secretariat:** Lu Veeck

## Annex-II Agenda of CONECT-MG-2

### CONECT-MG-2 PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

#### 1. Opening and Adoption of the Agenda

#### 2. Nomination of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of CONECT Working Groups:

*Self-nominations for Chair/Vice-Chair of Working Groups have been received via Forum since the first meeting of the Management Group (MG). This session will address final decisions and confirmations of what CONECT Working Groups should be implemented in 2024, the respective Chairs & Vice-Chairs, and the initial plans of activities.*

**In preparation for the meeting:** All MG members to use the Forums at

<https://etrp.wmo.int/course/view.php?id=319> to provide suggestions of activities for the WGs to start in 2024. The self-nominated Chair & Vice-Chair of WGs should prepare to make a short presentation of initial ideas for an activity plan for the year 2024.

##### **Nominations received by December 2023:**

##### **WG 1: Promoting BIP and Competency implementation.**

Chair: Mohammed Tawfik

Vice Chair: Barbara Bourdelles

##### **WG2: Training Resources**

Chair: Mike Pope

Vice Chair: Romina Mezher

##### **WG 3: Communications and outreach of CONET and Global Campus initiatives**

Chair: Marina Baldi

Vice Chair:

##### **WG4: Work Force/Human Resources**

Chair:

Vice Chair: Bernie Connell

Volunteered to collaborate: Arpita Mendal

##### **WG 5: Approaches for consistent adoption of certificates and micro-credentials in training**

Chair:

Vice Chair:

#### 3. Composition of CONECT Working Groups

*To move forward the activities of the Working Groups it is suggested that CONECT-MG agrees on a process for invitation and nomination of contributors. This session aims to discuss and approve the process.*

**In preparation for the meeting:** All MG members are kindly asked to familiarize themselves with the proposed paper attached.

#### 4. Consideration of Regional Aspects of CONECT

*A proposal for consideration of Regional Aspects will be presented by Steven Callagan.*

#### 5. Updates from ETR related to CONECT

*Updates on ETR actions will be provided on following topics:*

*5.1 Advice procured on branding and visual identity for CONECT and its relation to the Global Campus*

*5.2 Planning of the 2024 Edition of the Global Campus Innovations publication*

*5.3 WMO Global Campus Collection of Learning Resources - Testing of proposed solution*

#### 6. NEXT MEETINGS

*Proposal of date(s) for CONECT MG meeting(s) in 2024.*

7. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

*Summary of decisions, actions, and recommendations of CONECT-MG-2.*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

*Estimated time of meeting: 120 minutes*

## Annex-III Agenda of CONECT-MG-2

### Decision on CONECT working group composition

As CONECT becomes established and working groups begin detailed planning on how to deliver the outcomes agreed to in the first plenary meeting, the importance of having the right expertise involved becomes critical. An important task now is to ensure that we can attract those experts from all CONECT collaborating institutions to contribute towards our work.

The CONECT concept note (Decision 8 of [EC-75](#)) states that it “... shall be an open membership community composed of experienced members from education and training stakeholders worldwide who recognize, endorse, and/or have an active interest in WMO capacity development, education and training goals and strategy on Earth System Sciences, including meteorology, hydrology, and related environmental disciplines...”).

This has been interpreted as meaning that it is the *institution* which is the CONECT member. Member institutions are represented by appropriate members of their staff at plenary meetings or on working groups. It is only the chair, vice-chairs, and other members of the Management Group who are personally associated with CONECT from one set of elections until the next.

The question before the management group is: what process should be used for individuals to volunteer their time to contribute towards our working groups?

Options identified so far are:

1. Open. Anybody, as long as they work for a CONECT member institution, would contact the WG chair and begin working.
2. Self-nomination. Any member of a CONECT member institution can nominate themselves, with some form of resume or other description of their expertise and experience. The management group vet the candidate and accept or reject the offer.
3. Nominations by Permanent Representatives. As above, but through PRs.
4. Nominations by the Management Group. As above, but instigated by the MG, allowing us to target experts as needed.

Any combination of these options might be used in combination.

Whatever process is decided upon, candidates to sit on working groups must:

- Be willing to commit time and effort to make substantive contributions towards the objectives of the WG.
- Have a record of relevant experience or expertise, including in education and/or training.
- Have a genuine interest in furthering WMO capacity development, education and training goals and strategy, etc.
- Be associated with an institution which is a CONECT collaborating member.

Ideally, working groups should contain a representative mix of WMO regions, types of institution, and have a balance of gender.

It is intended to have a CONECT webpage listing the activities and outcomes of the working groups, including a contact email address so that interested individuals can talk to the relevant WG chair.