**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](https://library.wmo.int/records/item/58160-executive-council)) 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.