



## Summary Report CONECT-MG-8

### 1. Opening and Adoption of the Agenda

- The meeting was chaired by Winifred Jordaan, who welcomed participants and introduced the agenda. The agenda was adopted without changes.

### 2. Outcomes of CONECT-3

- Winifred summarized the main outcomes of CONECT-3.
- Key themes included regional discussions on training capacity (limited availability of qualified trainers, resource constraints and competing demands on staff time); the growing role of artificial intelligence in training and forecasting; updates on the WMO Global Campus and the RTC Dashboard; the Education and Training Marketplace; youth outreach; empowering women in training; and succession planning for training institutions.
- MG members noted the hybrid workshop format worked well and that plenary sessions were well planned and well received.
- A recurring concern, raised by Lu Veeck, was that CONECT-3 actions still depend heavily on the effort of Management Group (MG) members rather than the wider CONECT Plenary; the MG should act more as coordinator and actively draw in Plenary members to help deliver actions.
- Decision: The draft CONECT-3 report will be considered agreed and published if no comments are received by the deadline below.
- **Action from this meeting:** All MG members who attended CONECT-3 to review the draft report and submit comments/corrections to Winifred Jordaan. Deadline: 25 March 2026 (one week from the meeting).

#### *Follow up on CONECT-3 Actions 1-5*

- **CONECT-3 Actions 1–3** (centralising information on training activities, projects and development, to avoid duplication of effort) were agreed to be pursued through a coordinated approach, with the aim of identifying a single solution that could address all three actions. Options discussed included the WMO Moodle/CONECT area, the forthcoming RTC Dashboard, the Global Campus resource-sharing database, and a new WMO document/collaboration platform for external groups.
- **Action from this meeting:** Winifred Jordaan to draft an email to the full CONECT community asking whether a suitable platform or tool already exists; Luciane Veeck and Mustafa Adiguzel to refine the wording before it is sent. Mustafa Adiguzel to separately investigate whether Moodle, the RTC Dashboard, or the new WMO collaboration platform for external groups could meet the need. Deadline: responses requested from the community by end of March 2026.
- **CONECT-3 Action 4** (strengthening community communication, to increase awareness of and participation in CONECT) is linked to Working Group 3. Marina Baldi (WG-3) to consider how to take this forward and report back, noting the connection with Actions 1–3.
- **CONECT-3 Action 5** (succession-planning resources and guidance for training institutions, under Working Group 4) was previously led by Bernie, who has since



retired. Eduard Podgaiskii is willing to continue this work but needs additional contributors and Bernie's confirmation on whether she will continue contributions to the WG.

### 3. Planning of the Forth CONECT Plenary Meeting – CONECT-4

- Mingmei Li (Director, Division of Capacity Development) updated the MG on plans for the Fifteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET-15), held every four years. The symposium is expected to assess current status, emerging trends and gaps in workforce development across WMO Regions, examine future competency needs, and consider how WMO's education and training programme (and RTCs/training partners) should evolve. A concept paper and International Advisory Committee are being developed, and logistics are being negotiated with a prospective host country (associated with an active RTC); a formal confirmation letter is pending. The event is tentatively planned for November or early December 2026, as a hybrid meeting. Ms Li also noted that recent EC Task Force discussions on 2026–2027 priorities reaffirmed CONECT's capacity-development and partnership work as central to WMO's mandate.
- Decision: The Management Group agreed, without objection, to hold the Fourth CONECT Plenary Meeting (CONECT-4) alongside SYMET-15 to maximise participation and synergies, subject to confirmation of the host.
- Winifred Jordaan, Mick Pope and Vagner Anabor offered to assist with the CONECT/SYMET liaison.
- **Action from this meeting:** Provide an update on the confirmed host, dates and venue for CONECT-4. Deadline: By 1 July 2026 (CONECT-MG-9).

### 4. Updates on CONECT Management Group membership

- Dr Barbara Bourdelles (ENM) is leaving CONECT following a change of role, effective 1 June 2026; this was her final meeting with the MG. Her successor at ENM, Samuel, will represent the institution in CONECT but will not join the Management Group.
- Ana Timofeeva has been removed from the CONECT MG contact/ mailing list. Eduard Podgaiskii will continue to support Russia's participation on behalf of Dr Mikheyev (RSHU).
- Bernie (Working Group 4) has retired but remains willing to stay engaged as an active partner; the MG is awaiting her confirmation on continued involvement.
- All other MG members present confirmed their continued availability to actively contribute to MG activities in 2026.

### 5. Updates from CONECT Working Groups

- WG-1 – Chaired by Mohamed Tawfik; Barbara Bourdelles steps down as Co-Chair due to changing job. Her successor at ENM will represent the institution in CONECT-MG but will not assume the WG-1 Co-Chair role.
  - Decision: Stephen Kerr agreed to serve as Co-Chair of WG-1 alongside Mohamed Tawfik.
  - The group will draft its 2026 plan and broaden the competency discussion beyond forecasting to include climate, observations and other domains, engaging the wider



CONECT community rather than the MG alone. Lu Veeck and Mustafa Adiguzel to be invited to a WG-1 meeting to brief the group on ongoing revisions to WMO competency frameworks.

- WG-2 – Co-leads Mick Pope and Romina; no new activities to report since CONECT-3. The pair will organise a planning meeting in the coming weeks ahead of CONECT-MG-9.
- WG-3 – Co-leads Marina Baldi and Vagner Anabor. Dr Nelly is no longer involved; Adit (BMKG) confirmed as her successor and joined the meeting to introduce himself. It remains to be confirmed whether Rati continues in the group. The group will continue collaborating with Eduard Podgaiskii on a CONECT information brochure.
- WG-4 – Eduard Podgaiskii reported no progress to date and reiterated the need for additional contributors (Bernie and Arpita were previously involved). Next steps depend on Bernie's response regarding continued involvement (see Section 2).
- WG-5 – Dr Chen attended on behalf of WG-5 Chair Dr Yu Yubin and presented a proposal for additional survey questions for the ongoing activity /survey on certificates). Collaborators in this WG are Solangela Sánchez, Vieri Tarchiani, and Lu Veeck.
  - Decision: The proposed questions will be discussed within the WG-5 forum and combined with the survey already drafted, before being finalised. Elizabeth Mulvihill (COMET-MetEd), who volunteered at CONECT-3, will be added to the group.
- **Action from this meeting:** All Working Groups to hold planning meetings, finalise their 2026 activity plans, and communicate these plans to the wider CONECT Plenary to attract more collaborators. Deadline: progress to be reviewed at CONECT-MG-9.

## 6. Next Meetings

- *CONECT-MG-9 - 1 July 2026, 11:00 to 13:00 UTC (online meeting)*
- *CONECT-MG-10 - 7 October 2026, 11:00 to 13:00 UTC (online meeting)*
- *Fourth CONECT Plenary Meeting (CONECT-4) – Date TBC (hybrid meeting)*

## 7. Any Other Business

- Yuliana Purwanti reminded members that the CONECT-3 post-event feedback survey has been circulated; members who have not yet completed it were encouraged to do so.
- Mustafa Adiguzel informed the group that Paul Wujek has left WMO, and introduced Annick Champagne, who has joined the Capacity Development team as Capacity Development Officer (Fellowships).

## 8. Summary of Actions

Action	Owner	Deadline
Review the draft CONECT-3 report and submit comments/corrections	All MG members who attended CONECT-3	End of March 2026
Draft and refine community-wide email on a shared platform/tool for centralising training information (covers CONECT-3 Actions 1–3)	Winifred Jordaan (draft); Luciane Veeck & Mustafa Adiguzel (review & finalise)	End of March 2026



Action	Owner	Deadline
Investigate whether Moodle, the RTC Dashboard, or a new WMO collaboration platform can serve as the shared tool	Mustafa Adiguzel	To be advised
Progress the community-communication action (CONECT-3 Action 4)	Marina Baldi (WG-3)	To be advised
Confirm scope and next steps for the succession-planning action (CONECT-3 Action 5)	Eduard Podgaiskii, pending Bernie's response	To be advised
Circulate WG-1 2026 activity plan	Mohamed Tawfik	End of March 2026
Invite Luciane Veeck and Mustafa Adiguzel to a WG-1 meeting on competency frameworks	Stephen Kerr & Mohamed Tawfik (WG-1)	To be advised
Organise a WG-2 planning meeting	Mick Pope & Romina	Before CONECT-MG-9
Continue development of the CONECT brochure	Eduard Podgaiskii & WG-3	To be advised
Schedule a WG-5 meeting to finalise the survey about certificates	Luciane Veeck / Dr Yu Bin	To be advised
Submit 2026 Working Group activity plans and communicate them to the CONECT Plenary	All WG Chairs/Vice-Chairs	Before CONECT-MG-9
Confirm CONECT-4 host, dates and venue	Mingmei Li / D/DCD, Winifred Jordaan	As soon as possible
Complete the CONECT-3 post-event feedback survey	All CONECT-3 participants	As soon as possible

## Attendance

### *CONECT Management Group members and representatives attending*

Winifred Jordaan (RTC South Africa); Mick Pope (BMTG); Vagner Anabor (UFMS); Barbara Bourdelles (ENM); Stephen Kerr (ECCC); Mohamed Tawfik (EMA); Solangela Sánchez/Chile (DGAC); Romina Nahir Mezher (SMN); Adityawarman (BMKG), Marina Baldi (RTC Italy); Yu Yubin (CMATC), represented by Chen Siyu; Valerii Micheev (RSHU), represented by Eduard Podgaiskii.

### *WMO Secretariat*

Mingmei Li, Mustafa Adiguzel, Annick Champagne, Luciane Veeck, Yuliana Purwanti, Eunjin Choi.

### *Apologies / unable to attend*

Diakaria Kone (EAMAC), Gaurishankar kallappa Sawaisarje (IMD), Arpita Mandal (University of West Indies), Bernadette Connell (CIRA), Michael S. Bala (PAGASA), Steven Callaghan (UK Met Office).