



Summary Report CONECT-MG-9

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.
- Samuel Heide (Météo-France) was introduced as the new MG representative, replacing Barbara Bourdelles following her change of role. He is still familiarising himself with CONECT activities and looks forward to contributing more actively to future meetings.
- Luciane Veeck introduced Yuhan Zhu, who has joined the WMO Division of Capacity Development (DCD) as a Junior Professional Officer (JPO).
- Luciane Veeck apologised for not having circulated the CONECT-MG-8 summary notes prior to this meeting; she confirmed these would be shared with all MG members immediately after the meeting.

2. Update on SYMET-15 Planning

- Luciane Veeck reported on the first meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Fifteenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET-15), held 30 June 2026.
- SYMET-15 is confirmed to be hosted by Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST) in Nanjing, China, as part of a joint hybrid event from 7 to 11 December 2026:
 - SYMET-15 (7–9 December 2026),
 - CONECT-4 (10 December 2026), and
 - RTC Directors Meeting (11 December 2026)
- Days 1–4 of the joint event are fully open to education and training stakeholders; Day 5 (RTC Directors' Meeting) is by invitation only.
- The overall direction of the Symposium is being discussed by the IAC, and the theme is expected to be finalized by 10 July 2026.
- The [initial proposal on the overall direction of the Joint event](#) – SYMET-15 / CONECT-4 / RTC Directors Meeting – was shared with the Management Group for consideration.
- The proposed day-by-day focus was presented: Day 1 – Understanding change; Day 2 – Transforming learning; Day 3 – Building workforce development systems; Day 4 – CONECT-4: Regional and Inter-Regional Collaboration; Day 5 – Implementation of outcomes at RTCs.
- The joint event programme needs to be sufficiently advanced by mid-September and finalized by the end of September / early October to support registration and visa arrangements, including the issuance of official invitation letters by the host.

3. Planning of the Fourth CONECT Plenary Meeting – CONECT-4

- CONECT-4 is planned to be held 10 December 2026 (Day 4 of the joint event) in Nanjing, China, in hybrid format.
- The Management Group discussed the possibility of extending CONECT-4 to one and a half days. The proposal was supported in principle, but no final decision was taken



during the meeting because this depends on the wider SYMET-15 and RTC Directors Meeting arrangements.

- Marina Baldi advocated for one and a half days, noting that CONECT-3 (Florence, 2025) greatly benefited from the additional time, which allowed for deeper discussions and more substantive collaboration between participants.
- Bernadette Connell suggested reserving one hour at the end of each SYMET-15 day to summarise key points and identify potential collaboration ideas that could feed into CONECT-4. This was welcomed by the group as a useful way to strengthen continuity across the joint event.
- Luciane Veeck encouraged all MG members to involve partners beyond the Management Group in the design and delivery of CONECT-4 sessions, including institutions that may not yet be CONECT Plenary members.
- Vagner Anabor proposed that CONECT consider how to provide more structured guidance to RTCs and training institutions on priority training themes, such as Early Warnings for All and impact-based forecasting, as a way to make CONECT more operationally relevant.
 - Decision: The Management Group agreed on a three-month roadmap for finalising the CONECT-4 programme: July – brainstorm session topics, formats and potential partners in the dedicated Moodle forum; August – confirm sessions and coordinate with partners; end of August / early September – additional MG meeting to agree on a draft programme; September – confirm final programme, coordinators and speakers.
 - **Action from this meeting:** Winifred Jordaan to consult Marina Baldi and Secretariat on the possibility to extend CONECT-4 (1.5 days instead of 1 day). Deadline: by 10 July 2026.
 - **Action from this meeting:** Luciane Veeck to launch a forum discussion thread in the CONECT Moodle area (Management Group section) for CONECT-4 brainstorming immediately after this meeting.
 - **Action from this meeting:** Winifred Jordaan to send information on CONECT-4 and SYMET-15 to the full CONECT Plenary, inviting contributions to the programme. Deadline: July 2026, once the Circular Letter about the Joint event is distributed.
 - **Action from this meeting:** All MG members to actively participate in the Moodle forum brainstorm (July), confirm sessions and partners (August), and finalise their programme contribution (September).
 - **Action from this meeting:** Winifred Jordaan / Secretariat to convene an additional CONECT Management Group meeting to agree on a CONECT-4 programme draft. Deadline: end of August or early September 2026 (date TBC).

Key Topics Proposed for CONECT-4

- Collaboration to support training centres with limited access to AI, modern data infrastructure and new learning technologies, particularly in developing countries.
- Training for next-generation forecasters, given the growing and evolving role of AI in operational weather and climate services.
- Succession planning and continuous professional development across NMHSs.



- Bridging gaps between RTCs, national training institutions, and partners in the Global Campus.
- Possible regional recommendations on priority training themes, including Early Warnings for All and impact based forecasting.
- Use of partners and co-leads beyond the Management Group to broaden ownership and outreach.

4. Communication Hub – EOTech DevNet Offer

- Following the CONECT-MG-8 action to explore existing platforms for CONECT community communication, Winifred Jordaan received an offer from [EOTEC DevNet](#).
- EOTEC DevNet has been a CONECT Plenary member since the consortium's inception. Its Secretariat is hosted at NASA; it focuses on Earth observation education and training and has strong links with the WMO VLAB programme.
- The offer includes the possible use of EOTEC DevNet's existing online community infrastructure and the creation of a private CONECT group, with moderation support to be clarified.
- MG members with prior knowledge of EOTEC DevNet noted it is a useful and well-connected platform.
- MG members noted potential benefits, including ready-made infrastructure; regional communities; relevant thematic overlap (Earth observations, AI, early warning); potentially available at no direct cost to CONECT.
- MG members also identified issues requiring clarification, including cost, governance, CONECT visibility and identity within another platform, terms of collaboration, and the long-term sustainability of EO Tech DevNet support.
 - Decision: Winifred Jordaan will write to EOTEC DevNet expressing interest and proposing a meeting, copying Marina Baldi. WG-3, together with CONECT Co-Chairs and Secretariat, will follow up with EOTEC DevNet to assess whether the offer meets the communication and centralisation needs identified in CONECT-3 Actions 1–3.
 - **Action from this meeting:** Winifred Jordaan to write to EOTEC DevNet expressing interest in a meeting, copying Marina Baldi. Deadline: immediately after this meeting.
 - **Action from this meeting:** Marina Baldi (WG-3), together with CONECT Co-Chairs and Secretariat, to follow up with EOTEC DevNet. Deadline: July–August 2026.

5. Updates from CONECT Working Groups

- WG-1 – Co-Chairs Mohamed Tawfik and Stephen Kerr. Mohamed Tawfik informed he was unable to attend. Stephen Kerr reported briefly: no WG activities have taken place since CONECT-MG-8. Stephen Kerr proposed expanding WG-1's scope beyond BIP-M and BIP-MT to broader workforce competency development and transformation, drawing on examples such as Environment Canada's current operational transition. Winifred Jordaan supported this direction, noting the importance of including diverse competency domains (aviation, climate, observations). Stephen Kerr and Mohamed Tawfik will meet to agree on the WG-1 plan once Mohamed returns.



- **Action from this meeting:** Stephen Kerr to send an email to all CONECT members inviting them to share good examples of competency framework implementation. Deadline: July 2026.
- WG-2 – Co-Chairs Mick Pope and Romina Nahir Mezher. Mick Pope informed he was unable to attend. Romina Mezher confirmed there has been no WG-2 activity since CONECT-MG-8. A new member reached out requesting a meeting, but the meeting has not yet been organised.
 - **Action from this meeting:** Mick Pope and Romina Mezher to convene a WG-2 planning meeting and schedule a separate meeting with the new member who reached out. Deadline: July 2026.
- WG-3 – Co-Chairs Marina Baldi and Vagner Anabor. The group has not met since March, as it was awaiting progress on the communication platform question. WG-3 now has a clear direction following the EOTEC DevNet discussion. Additional tasks include the CONECT information brochure (Eduard Podgaiskii's initiative) and communications to the CONECT community in support of CONECT-4.
- WG-4 – Co-Chairs Valery Mikheev (represented by Eduard Podgaiskii) and Bernadette Connell. The group has not met since March and had communication issues. Eduard Podgaiskii confirmed that his institutional email had been bouncing; his Gmail address is now confirmed as the preferable contact for CONECT communications. Bernadette Connell confirmed she is fully retired and will keep her current email address active, notifying the Secretariat if this changes. WG-4 is to contribute to developing CONECT agenda under Building Workforce Development Systems theme of SYMET-15. Experience of academic research schools in sustaining their activities can be considered as a good practice in succession planning.
 - Decision: Eduard Podgaiskii offered to draft the minutes for CONECT-MG-9, removing this responsibility from the WMO Secretariat. This offer was accepted. Eduard Podgaiskii will confirm by CONECT-MG-10 (7 October 2026) whether he is willing to take on this role permanently for all future CONECT Management Group meetings.
 - **Action from this meeting:** Eduard Podgaiskii to draft and circulate CONECT-MG-9 minutes to the Management Group. Deadline: within a few days of the meeting.
 - **Action from this meeting:** WG-4 to contribute to CONECT-4 brainstorming and its programme.
- WG-5 – Chair Dr Yu Yubin. The assistant of Dr Yu Yubin was present in the meeting but unable to use audio. Luciane Veeck reported that Elizabeth Mulvihill (COMET/MetEd, USA) has been added as a new WG-5 member. Draft survey questions on certificates are in progress within the group. The survey is planned for circulation to all CONECT Plenary members in the second semester of 2026.
 - **Action from this meeting:** WG-5 (Luciane Veeck and Dr Yu Yubin) to organize a meeting for WG-5 to discuss and finalise survey questions on certificates. Deadline: second semester of 2026.

6. Next Meetings

- *Additional CONECT Management Group meeting – date TBC, end of August or early September 2026 (online) – to finalise the CONECT-4 programme.*



- *CONECT-MG-10 – 7 October 2026, 11:00 to 13:00 UTC (online meeting).*
- *Fourth CONECT Plenary Meeting (CONECT-4) – 10 December 2026 (hybrid meeting, Nanjing, China), held as a joint event with SYMET-15 (7–11 December 2026, Nanjing, China, hosted by NUIST).*

7. Any Other Business

- All attendees planning to participate in SYMET-15 / CONECT-4 in person were reminded to complete their official registration by end of September 2026 in order to receive the Chinese official invitation letter (with the official red stamp) required for visa applications. Information about registration will be circulated in July.

8. Summary of Actions

Action	Owner	Deadline
Share CONECT-MG-8 summary notes with the full Management Group	Winifred Jordaan	Completed immediately after CONECT-MG-9
Advise Mustafa Adiguzel on the duration of CONECT-4 (1 day or 1.5 days), after consulting Luciane Veeck and Marina Baldi	Winifred Jordaan	By 10 July 2026
Send information on CONECT-4 and SYMET-15 to the full CONECT community, inviting contributions to the programme	Winifred Jordaan	July 2026
Write to EOTEC DevNet expressing interest in a meeting, copying Marina Baldi	Winifred Jordaan	Completed immediately after CONECT-MG-9
Launch Moodle forum discussion thread for CONECT-4 brainstorming	Luciane Veeck	Completed immediately after CONECT-MG-9
Organise and hold a working meeting with EOTEC DevNet to evaluate the communication hub offer	Marina Baldi (WG-3) & Secretariat	July–August 2026
Actively participate in Moodle brainstorm (July); confirm sessions and partners (August); finalise programme contribution (September)	All MG members	July–September 2026
Convene an additional CONECT Management Group meeting to agree on the CONECT-4 programme draft	Winifred Jordaan /Secretariat	End of August or early September 2026
Send email to all CONECT members inviting examples of competency framework implementation	Stephen Kerr (WG-1)	July 2026



Action	Owner	Deadline
Urgently convene a WG-2 planning meeting and schedule a meeting with the new member who reached out	Mick Pope & Romina Mezher (WG-2)	July 2026
Draft and circulate CONECT-MG-9 minutes to the Management Group	Eduard Podgaiskii	Within a few days of the meeting
Convene a WG-5 meeting to discuss and finalise survey questions on certificates	Luciane Veeck & Dr Yu Yubin (WG-5)	Second semester of 2026
Complete official registration for SYMET-15 / CONECT-4 in Nanjing	All prospective in-person attendees	End of September 2026

Attendance

CONECT Management Group members and representatives attending

Winifred Jordaan (RTC South Africa); Vagner Anabor (UFMS); Stephen Kerr (ECCC); Romina Nahir Mezher (SMN); Marina Baldi (RTC Italy); Valerii Micheev (RSHU), represented by Eduard Podgaiskii; Samuel Heide (Météo-France); Bernadette Connell (CIRA - retired); Solangel Sánchez/Chile (DGAC); Gaurishankar Sawaisarje (IMD); Adityawarman, advised by Ratih Prasetya (BMKG); Yu Yubin (CMATC), represented by Assistant.

WMO Secretariat

Luciane Veeck, Yuliana Purwanti, Mustafa Adiguzel, Yuhan Zhu.

Apologies / unable to attend

Mohamed Tawfik (EMA); Mick Pope (BMTG); Diakaria Kone (EAMAC); Arpita Mandal (University of West Indies); Michael S. Bala (PAGASA).