

2019 UNGEGN Session
29 April – 3 May 2019, New York

Side Event
Challenges and Opportunities of the Online Discussion Forum

Thursday, 2 May 2019, 1:15 – 2:30pm

Conf. Room A (Conference bldg.)

Background

The online discussion forum is an activity supported by the Working Group on Toponymic on Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG). The forum is a wiki tool used for the exchange of information about several topics related to UNGEGN's mandate. It has been regularly updated since 2017 and comprises the following topics:

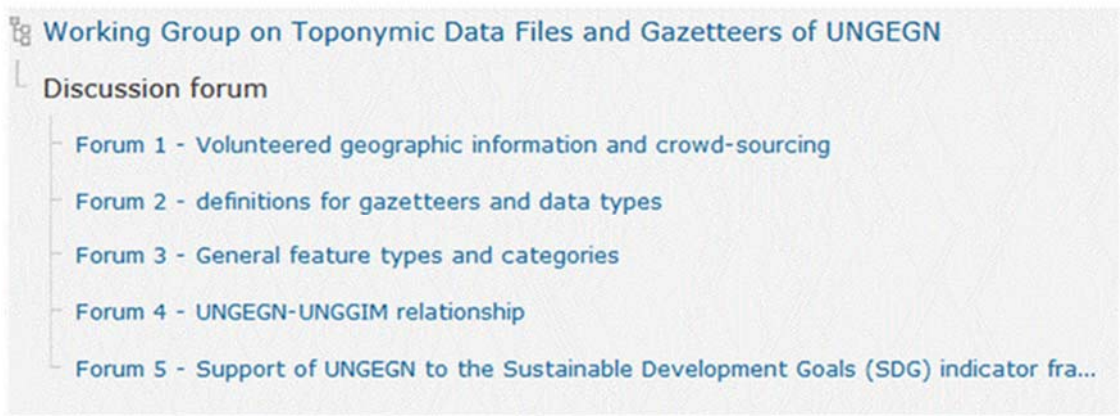


Figure 1 - Screenshot of the menu bar of the online discussion forum

The tool facilitates discussions and an exchange of ideas can easily take place, for example the relationship between UNGEGN and UN-GGIM and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators: <https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Discussion+forum>

This online discussion forum shall be utilized to commence investigations on these issues mentioned before within the WG TDFG. Therefore, separate Wiki “rooms” / pages for these specific topics have been created and initial documents were uploaded.

All users can view all content of the online discussion forum even without being registered. Registered members are able to start to comment on the initial documents and extend the content of the Wiki “rooms” / pages respectively.

For more information about how to use the discussion forum, please check the '[Rules for participants](#)'. If you have any questions, please contact the convenor of the WG TDFG.

Objectives

The workshop shall identify the advantages and disadvantages of the tool and lead to a decision whether or not this activity should be further supported by the WG TDFG. It is obvious that tackling these new and quite complex issues needs a strong support and contributions by the UNGEGN

members. They have been asked to provide content and initial documents. Currently the interest to contribute to the issues via the online discussion forum is weak. One reason might be that the user-friendliness of the tool has not yet been clarified satisfactorily. Another reason may be that the tool has not convinced the users to be appropriate for improving the exchange of ideas within UNGEGN significantly.

Activity

The convenor of the WG TDFG as well as the responsible moderators of the respective fora will present the content, the challenges and opportunities of the tool. Based on these presentations an open discussion will take place and shall lead to general decision about the usefulness of the online discussion forum for UNGEGN issues.

Agenda

Moderator: Cecille Blake, UNSD UNGEGN Secretariat

#	time	Topic	Speaker	Status
1	5'	General overview on the content of the online discussion forum	Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu	confirmed
2	5'	Forum 1 - Volunteered geographic information and crowd-sourcing	Ms Annette Torensjö (Sweden)	confirmed
3	5'	Forum 2 - definitions for gazetteers and data types	Ms. Vita Strautniece (Latvia)	confirmed
4	5'	Forum 3 - General feature types and categories	Mr. Teemu Leskinen (Finland)	confirmed
5	5'	Forum 4 - UNGEGN-UN-GGIM relationship	Ms. Catherine Cheetham (United Kingdom)	confirmed
6	5'	Forum 5 - Support of UNGEGN to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator framework	Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu	confirmed
7	10'	Open discussion & questions	all	
8	5'	Wrap-up of the outcome and findings & decision on how to proceed	Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu	confirmed