

ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities  
Twenty-fourth session  
Vienna, 18-22 June 1990  
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

SA/1990/3  
12 April 1990

**REPORT ON THE WORK OF ACCIS OF RELEVANCE TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Prepared by the Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination  
of Information Systems (ACCIS)

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The following is a brief overview of the ACCIS activities which may be of interest to the members of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities:

(1) ACCIS Meeting

ACCIS held its fifth session in Geneva, 18-21 September 1989. Much of the work of ACCIS is on information-related issues of common interest to the organizations of the United Nations system and is carried out under the auspices of technical panels and working groups comprising representatives from those organizations. At the meeting two technical panels were created and a second working group was added to an existing one. They are:

- (a) Technical Panel on the United Nations Telecommunications Network (TP/NET) - TP/NET was established to advise and assist the United Nations in the discharge of its mandate to enhance the United Nations telecommunications network to serve the United Nations system, pursuant to ITU resolution No. COM8/1 (Final Act of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Nice, 1989), which resolved that the United Nations telecommunications network may carry the traffic of the specialized agencies. As its first step the Panel has initiated a survey of the specialized agencies to ascertain their telecommunication needs;
- (b) Technical Panel on Computer Security (TP/SEC) - ACCIS also established a technical panel to deal with the various issues relating to computer security in the United Nations system. The work of the Panel is to be done in consultation with the Internal Auditors of the United Nations and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ (FB));
- (c) Working Group on Electronic Records Management (WG/REM) - the Panel on Electronic Records Management (TP/REM) was officially disbanded after completing its mandate to produce a study and guidelines for the use of organizations of the United Nations system in developing and implementing their policies relating to the management of electronic records. A follow-up working group was subsequently established to provide the organizations with a mechanism to keep aware of the developments in this field regarding technological innovation and relevant standards, and to exchange experience as organizations developed their internal systems;
- (d) Working Group on Data Base Dissemination (WG/DBD) - the working group was mandated by ACCIS to prepare a proposal for a project that would, firstly, develop a methodology for gathering United Nations-generated information on a designated subject (Namibia) and incorporating it in a common collection accessible from a machine-readable database, and secondly, provide information services to government officials of Namibia and representatives of United Nations organizations working in Namibia on the basis of this collection and to monitor its use and its contribution to policy-making.

• Namibia only?

(2) Publications

— Available in the process used to get  
data of the source in the data, this is  
to put it as it determines the kind of  
data they include related to statistics

ACCIS publications are usually a result of (1) its mandate to facilitate access to the information resources in the United Nations system, and (2) the coordinative work done by its technical panels and working groups. The publications mentioned below are available free-of-charge on request to members of the Sub-Committee.

- (a) The 1988 Register of development activities of the United Nations system was published at the end of 1989. This is the second in a projected annual series of the Register. It covers 20,309 activities current in 1988 and executed by the organizations of the United Nations system. The Register is primarily intended as an operational tool for development planning and co-ordination purposes to be used by governments and development oriented organizations. Work has already commenced on the production of the 1989 Register which is scheduled for publication at the end of 1990.
- (b) The ACCIS Guide to United Nations information sources on international trade and development finance was published in early 1990. This guide is the third publication in a series of ACCIS guides to information sources available within the United Nations system on various topics.
- (c) ACCIS also published in early 1990 the Management of electronic records: Issues and guidelines. This publication aims at assisting United Nations organizations in addressing the challenges presented by the new information environment of electronic records: it includes a proposed set of guidelines for managing electronic archives and records; a survey of the use and status of electronic media in the organizations; a discussion of information technology standards as they relate to electronic record-keeping; and a glossary of terms that figure prominently in those domains.
- (d) Due to large demand, a 1988 ACCIS publication, Providing access to United Nations databases: a guide for United Nations database producers has had a second printing. It identifies issues to be considered in framing dissemination policies, in addition to policies and practices already in existence throughout the system.
- (e) The new edition Directory of United Nations databases and information systems (DUNDIS) is in the final editing phase and should be ready for publication in the late spring of 1990. As indicated in the title the publication aims to be a comprehensive referral source of information from all organizations of the United Nations system with no limit as to subject coverage or the nature of the information. Whereas the 1985 edition of the Directory has approximately 600 items, the new edition will have close to a thousand entries. DUNDIS will inevitably cover the same computerized statistical databases as mentioned in the Inventory of Statistical Databases, though the information will be more of a general, referral nature and will not have the same details as found in the Inventory.
- (f) The mailing list for the ACCIS Newsletter is in the process of being updated. The Newsletter, which is published every two months, has at the moment approximately 2,300 subscribers.