

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)

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) Technical Panel on the United Nations Telecommunications Network (TP/NET):

TP/NET was established at the 5th session of ACCIS held in Geneva September 1989. It is 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.

A survey of the specialized agencies undertaken by the United Nations and ITU to ascertain their communication needs has been completed. The United Nations has, subsequently, prepared for consideration by the agencies a prospectus detailing the future development of the network regarding its extension to the various regional offices and of its services to be offered.

(2) Technical Panel on Computer Security (TP/SEC):

At the same meeting mentioned in item 1, ACCIS also established a technical panel to prepare information security guidelines for use by the United Nations system. The work of the Panel is being done in consultation with the Internal Auditors of the United Nations, the Panel of External Auditors, and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ (FB)).

The guidelines will be presented to ACCIS at its 6th session in September 1991.

(3) Working Group on Electronic Records Management (WG/ERMIS):

Using the guidelines prepared by ACCIS in an earlier publication (*Management of electronic records: issues and guidelines*), the Working Group, under the Chairmanship of IMF, has conducted work on the identification of a common generic set of technology requirements relating to electronic records management. The Working Group will then translate these requirements into a limited subgroup of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) protocols. The Panel's product will be submitted to ACCIS in September 1991.

(4) Working Group on Database Dissemination (WG/DBD):

The Working Group under the lead agency of ILO is exploring the feasibility of providing access to a number of large, bibliographic United Nations databases. One means of shared access being reviewed by the Working Group is the possibility of developing conversion and merge programmes which could result in combining data from several different databases onto a medium such as diskette or CD-ROM. A feasibility study is being prepared and will be presented at the ACCIS meeting in September 1991.

(5) *Register of development activities of the United Nations system:*

The 1989 *Register* was published at the end of 1990. This is the third in an annual series of the Register. It covers 24,791 activities current in 1989 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 United Nations system organizations. The Register is also available in machine-readable form from the ACCIS Secretariat.

(6) New publications:

Directory of United Nations databases and information services (DUNDIS):

A new edition of DUNDIS was published in June of 1990. As indicated in the title the publication is 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 has over 900 entries including many information services and databases dealing with statistical data.

Directory of applications software of the United Nations system:

Published at the beginning of 1991, this directory describes 81 application software packages produced by 15 organizations in the United Nations system. Data supplied for each entry includes a description of the software, system requirements, its availability and contact information.

Directory of selected collections of the United Nations system publications:

Published in late 1990, this Directory intends to be a comprehensive source of information on the libraries and documentation centres of the United Nations system, and libraries at the national level which maintain depository collections of United Nations system publications.