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)

Following is a brief outline of those ACCIS activities that might be of interest to the members of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities.

Technical Panel on Records Management (TP/REM)

1. The ACCIS meeting in 1987 established a Technical Panel on Records Management, to address issues in this area which have arisen as a result of the rapid evolution of information and communication technologies.

2. The goals of TP/REM are:

   (a) to develop guidelines for implementation of electronic archives and records management programs for use by UN organizations, taking into account traditional archives and records management practice;

   (b) to identify and describe standards that can facilitate effective utilization of the broad range of new technologies in archives and records management programs in UN organizations;

   (c) to facilitate coherent and integrated development of electronic archives, records management and electronic records transmission, so that the implementation goals of these efforts can be jointly optimized wherever feasible.

3. TP/REM's lead agency is the World Bank. Core members are: UN, UNDP, UNESCO, ILO, IMF, WHO and ICC. ECLAC, UNDRO, ITC and IFAD are associate members.

United Nations Common Indexing Vocabulary

4. At its 1987 annual meeting, ACCIS committed itself to developing a United Nations common indexing vocabulary. The main thrust of the project is to work towards a merger of the United Nations' Macrotecasaurus, the UNBIS Thesaurus and the World Bank Thesaurus to produce a common vocabulary which could be used on a cross-organizational basis. It is hoped that it will be of use not only to the United Nations system but also to the Member states. The project is being discussed by the United Nations, the World Bank, the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).
5. ACCIS is in the process of implementing the United Nations System Register of Development Activities. The Register is designed to present, in an integrated form, descriptive and financial information on all the operational activities for social and economic development funded and/or executed by organizations of the United Nations system.

6. It is intended to meet the needs of governmental units of Member States and other interested non-governmental organizations for comprehensive data on development activities carried out by the United Nations system.

7. At present, ACCIS is gathering and merging the data from participating organizations with the expectation of publishing the first printed edition of the Register during the autumn of 1988. This edition will include data valid to the end of 1987. Also, the Register data will be available in ISO-2709 format on machine-readable media such as diskettes and magnetic tapes.

Database of United Nations Databases and Information Systems (DUNDIS)

8. ACCIS is now updating the "Database of United Nations Databases and Information Systems" (DUNDIS). At the moment, DUNDIS is the only existing comprehensive source of information which is publicly available on information systems, services and computerized databases of the United Nations system. From this database a directory is published every 3-4 years with a new edition scheduled for the beginning of 1989. In addition, a copy of the database is available on the ECHO Service, the online service of the European Economic Community.

Issues concerning Database Access

9. ACCIS is preparing a report on "Issues for Consideration in Framing Access Policies" for data stored in machine-readable form. This document is intended as a guide for units in the UN system which are considering making computerized data available to Member States through online services. It identifies issues to be considered in framing access policies in addition to policies and practices already in existence throughout the system as reported to the ACCIS Secretariat. The report will be available in June 1988.