General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/38/42
7 November 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-eighth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 109

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1984-1985

Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems

Budget estimates for the biennium 1984-1985

Revised estimates under section 28G. Electronic Data Processing
and Information Systems Division - Advisory Committee for the
Co-ordination of Information Systems (United Nations share)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems

Budget estimates for the biennium 1984-1985

1.   The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), at its third regular
session in 1982, decided to approve resources for the biennium 1982-1983 for the
continuation of interorganization secretariat services in the field of information
systems at the same real level as embodied in the budget for the secretariat of the
Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities (IOB) for
the biennium 1980-1981. At the same time, ACC noted that further arrangements
would have to be made pursuant to the decision that the Economic and Social Council
might take on the strengthening of the co-ordination of information systems
throughout the United Nations common system and decided to include the question of
strengthening the co-ordination of information systems in its programme of work for
1983. Subsequently, the Council adopted resolution 1982/71 of 10 November 1982, in
which it invited ACC to take appropriate action to ensure the continuation of
current activities supporting the co-ordination of information systems and to
strengthen and reorient them, in order to ensure the more efficient operation of
existing or planned United Nations information systems from the perspective of
users at the national level and to enhance the capacity of the United Nations
system to collect, share, retrieve and disseminate information. At its first
regular session of 1983, ACC, further to its decision referred to above and further

to Council resolution 1982/71, decided to establish an Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), under the guidance of a steering committee and supported by a core servicing secretariat. It requested ACCIS to prepare budgetary estimates for the 1984-1985 biennium at a level not to exceed in real terms the level approved for the 1982-1983 biennium in respect of the former IOB.

2. The programme of work and budget for the biennium 1984-1985 in respect of ACCIS as approved by ACC at its second regular session of 1983 is submitted below.

TABLE 1.   ANALYSIS OF OVERALL COSTS

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Main objects of expenditure	1982-1983 estimates	Estimated additional requirements Revaluation of 1982-1983 resource base (at revised 1983 rates)	Resource growth (at revised 1983 rates)	Inflation in 1984 and 1985	Total increase	1984-1985 estimates
Established posts	572.7	(2.1)	–	34.6	32.5	605.2
Temporary assistance	22.6	–	(6.4)	1.6	(4.8)	17.8
Consultants	247.3	(1.1)	(147.6)	8.9	(139.8)	107.5
Personal services	–	–	103.4	8.4	111.8	111.8
Common staff costs	165.8	(0.4)	–	10.3	9.9	175.7
Representation allowances	1.2	–	–	–	–	1.2
Travel of staff	91.9	2.3	(17.3)	6.5	(8.5)	83.4
Contractual services	109.7	(0.5)	46.3	13.2	59.0	168.7
General operating expenses	22.6	–	(8.6)	1.2	(7.4)	15.2
Supplies and materials	–		18.0	1.5	19.5	19.5
Total	1 233.8	(1.8)	(12.2)	86.2	72.2	1 306.0

Analysis of real growth (at revised 1983 rates)

(1) Total revalued 1982-1983 resource base	(2) Actual	Resource growth (3) Less non-recurrent items	(4) Plus delayed growth (new posts)	(5) Adjusted	Rate of real growth (5) over (1)
1 232.0	(12.2)	–	–	(12.2)	(0.9)%

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TABLE 2. STAFFING TABLE

	1982-1983	1984-1985
Professional category and above		
D-2	1	1
P-5	2	2
P-2/1	1	1
Total	4	4
General Service category		
Other levels	3	3
Total	3	3
Grand total	7	7

Subprogramme 1. Information needs of Member States

3.   This subprogramme is considered the umbrella over all other subprogrammes, notably subprogramme 2, which would provide the necessary tools to assist in its execution; therefore it has been assigned high priority by ACCIS. The secretariat will devote substantial efforts to promoting informative tools to acquaint users at the national level and particularly in developing countries, on information resources available in the United Nations system and ways of accessing them. These tasks will be carried out in close co-operation with the appropriate mechanisms existing in each organization. In this respect, it is hoped that additional benefits would be gained by wider inter-agency participation in promotional information activities of common interest.

Objective

Member States have access to guides, seminars and training materials describing United Nations information systems and services.

Activities

(a) Identify specific requirements by Member States for information about existing services and facilities;

(b) Prepare brochures and other informative materials, with the participation of concerned organizations, giving an overview of the information products available;

(c) Promote diffusion of this material through ACCIS and other channels within the United Nations system.

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Output

    (a)   Published brochures;

    (b)   Training and other informative materials;

    (c)   Announcement, through the ACCIS Newsletter, of information-related seminars organized within the United Nations system;

    (d)   Report to ACCIS on information requirements by Member States, for future action.

Subprogramme 2. Tools for accessing United Nations system information

Programme element 2.1. Directory of United Nations Information Systems

4.   A Directory of United Nations Information Systems and services was published in 1980 by IOB. Questionnaires were sent to all United Nations organizations in August 1983, with a view to preparing a new edition. The new Directory will report on both existing and planned substantive information systems. Collection of information, data entry, editing and verification will take place during the latter part of 1983; the new Directory will be published in early 1984 and the related on-line data base (DUNIS) made available during the second half of 1984. The Directory will be published in one volume in English, with a trilingual subject index (English, French and Spanish). The Directory will also assist the ACCIS secretariat in providing advice on proposed information systems (see subprogramme 4). On the basis of the methodological framework used to prepare the Directory, ACCIS, as lead agency, would undertake the preparation of the Directory on Major Information Systems in Science and Technology, as requested by the ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development, provided extrabudgetary funds can be made available for this purpose.

Objectives

    (a)   Increased capacity in United Nations organizations to respond to users' requests for information;

    (b)   Member States acquainted with the existence and possibilities of access to information available in the United Nations system.

Activities

    (a)   Produce the printed Directory by computerized typesetting;

    (b)   Set up the on-line data base on appropriate host computers;

    (c)   Establish a procedure for periodic updating of the data base and for the periodic extraction of new information to be published in the ACCIS Newsletter.

Output

(a) Printed Directory;

(b) Updated notes on the United Nations information system in ACCIS Newsletter;

(c) On-line data base;

(d) Machine-readable copies of data base.

Programme element 2.2. Access to United Nations data base

5.   As a result of rapidly developing technology and decreasing costs of computer facilities, United Nations system information is increasingly being stored and maintained on data bases. Some of these data bases have become essential components of information services; some have been built to provide for on-line access; only a small number are publicly available outside the United Nations system. In order to provide policy guidance in this rapidly evolving sector of information services, ACCIS has established a Technical Panel on Access to United Nations Data Bases (DBA). The Panel will review current trends in the field and propose policy guidelines governing the dissemination of United Nations information in machine-readable form.

Objectives

(a) United Nations organizations have background material on which to draw up policies with respect to dissemination of their data bases;

(b) Member States have access to United Nations information in a variety of usable forms.

Activities

(a) Prepare a guide to United Nations system data bases presently available in Member States;

(b) Summarize present dissemination practices concerning on-line access, downloading and other types of service;

(c) Prepare model guidelines on commercial network services for use by organizations wishing to make available new data bases;

(d) Encourage United Nations agencies to make their data bases more readily accessible outside their individual organizations.

Output

(a) Pamphlet on United Nations data bases available in Member States;

(b) Model guidelines on United Nations data base dissemination.

Programme element 2.3. Register of United Nations Serial Publications

6.   The first edition of the Register of United Nations Serial Publications, a
directory containing information about all periodicals and other serial
publications produced by the United Nations system, was issued by IOB in early
1983. The Register was prepared in collaboration with the International Center for
the Registration of Serials (ISDS), which has included United Nations serials in
its overall data base containing information about all serial publications
world-wide. This world-wide data base, however, contains only a bibliographic
description of the serials. At the request of IOB, ISDS added subject information
about United Nations serials. Users have reported on the usefulness of this
publication for bibliographic access and have also pointed out errors and
exclusions. In order to enhance its usefulness, the data need to be updated at
regular intervals. This activity will be carried out during the biennium
1984-1985, with a view to publishing a revised edition at a later date.

Objective

Member States have access to up-to-date, accurate information about all
serials produced throughout the United Nations common system.

Activities

(a) Determine with ISDS how to make a United Nations subset of the ISDS data
base accessible to ACCIS;

(b) Prepare procedures for updating bibliographic information;

(c) Prepare procedures for updating subject information;

(d) Ensure that United Nations organizations contribute to and make full use
of ISDS;

(e) Enlist the co-operation and eventual participation of other United
Nations organizations not currently in touch with ISDS;

(f) Carry out regular updating of the Register data base.

Output

(a) Up-to-date Register file on computer;

(b) Manual of procedures for all organizations to use when reporting changes
and submitting information on new serials;

(c) Costed report containing proposals for future action.

Programme element 2.4. Data base on documents for development

7.   During 1983, an evaluation study was made, under the auspices of ACCIS, of the
Information Systems Unit (ISU) of the Department of International Economic and

Social Affairs of the United Nations. That study brought to light the ever increasing requirement on the part of Member States for ready access to information about development literature, both published and unpublished, generated by the United Nations system. During the last few years, IOB has carried out a project to merge machine-readable information collected from several organizations on documents for development. Although the experiment has been only partially successful, it proved its feasibility. On the other hand, ISU has recently successfully merged similar current information from the regional commissions. In the light of these experiences, ACCIS will study how to create a system-wide data base on documents for development, what infrastructure is required to maintain this on a regular basis and what information products for Member States can be derived from such a data base.

Objective

Development of a methodological framework which could be used in subsequent biennia to produce an information system on substantive documents and publications relevant to economic and social development issued by United Nations organizations.

Activities

(a) Outline information requirements of target groups in Member States;

(b) Examine alternative means of providing information about new publications;

(c) Draw up a costed project proposal.

Output

Detailed, costed proposal for setting up a system-wide data base with its associated information products.

Programme element 2.5. Computer-based communication services

8. The United Nations common system lives on information, much of which has to be processed and transmitted to different services within a single agency, between agencies, and to and from Member States. The efficiency with which this can be done depends increasingly on the availability of cost-effective telecommunication facilities and on appropriate equipment in the different organizations to permit the connection of various types of computer equipment with the telecommunication networks.

9. ACCIS should serve as a forum for information producers, processors and users in both the administrative and substantive sectors to meet with officials responsible for communications. Short-term, medium-term and long-term plans should be drawn up on a wide range of topics relevant to the dissemination of information. It is hoped that in the 1984-1985 biennium, two-way links between several computing centres within the United Nations common system will become available, in addition to the one which already exists between United Nations Headquarters and the Geneva offices. Several studies concerning such links are

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already being carried out in this relatively new field by a number of organizations in the common system.

10. In addition to the establishment of the physical links, it would also be necessary to organize extensive awareness seminars for the staff of the organizations concerned, to ensure that effective use is made of the data transmission, electronic messages and other facilities such links might offer. There are recognized needs and advantages in the transmission of regularly recurring administrative data, such as operational exchange rates, salary scales, pension and other standard computations of entitlements, which are already maintained on computer systems by several offices within the United Nations common system. Computer-based conferences is another development that could offer particular advantages to the United Nations organizations. It eliminates time differences, and, in many cases, substitutes communication costs for travel costs, and may prove to be a cost-effective way of establishing and maintaining links with Member States. Much of the work of the ACCIS Technical Panels could be carried out by setting up a number of computer conferences on various topics, from which final reports could be easily consolidated.

11. Consonant with the ACC proposal (E/1982/85, paras. 25-29) and reflecting the concerns of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) and of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, ACCIS has given highest priority to this work and has set up a Technical Panel on Computer-based Communication Services (COM) to examine the impact of the new technology on the handling and transfer of information. The Panel will fully explore the possibilities, problems and benefits of establishing data communication links between major offices of the United Nations system and opportunities for Member States to make use of such links for accessing United Nations information. The work of the Technical Panel will be carried out in co-operation with CCAQ and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, and with whatever mechanism is established following the JIU report on communications in the United Nations system (A/37/372).

Objective

Organizations of the United Nations system able to effectively transmit and exchange data by means of telecommunication links.

Activities

(a) Review present utilization of telecommunication facilities by United Nations organizations, studies already made and short-term plan;

(b) Assess available resources and the financial and organizational impact of telecommunications;

(c) Explore alternative options, including possible use of commercial networks, for the extension of the New York-Geneva link to Vienna, Washington, D.C., Paris and Rome;

(d) Submit a report to ACCIS for further action, giving findings and indicating the cost effectiveness of alternative solutions;

(e) Conduct experimental use of computer-based conference facilities to reduce the work of the Technical Panels.

Output

(a) Report on telecommunications network alternatives for the United Nations common system;

(b) Evaluation of computer-based conference facilities.

Programme element 2.6. International standards for information handling

12. It is clear from the advice being sought by United Nations organizations from ACCIS that considerable effort is needed to make greater use of existing international standards for information handling, so that the individual organizations do not have to devote scarce resources to preparing their own standards and promoting compatibility. In co-operation with the UNESCO Working Group on Methods, Norms and Standards and with joint activities for a global network of scientific and technical information, ACCIS will prepare a non-technical brochure and training materials for use in awareness seminars and as background material for potential designers of information systems. Although ACCIS is not expected to undertake specific standardization activities, it should actively co-operate in promoting adherence to and diffusion of such standards within the United Nations common system.

Objective

(a) More efficient and co-operative use of existing or planned United Nations information systems;

(b) Enhanced capacity to plan and implement compatible information systems.

Activities

(a) Assist in identifying areas in the United Nations common system where implementation of existing standards would be necessary or desirable;

(b) Assist in the promotion of the use of relevant standards, including organization of training in their application;

(c) Participate in the identification of areas where new standards need to be developed.

Output

(a) Promotional and training materials on international standards for information handling;

(b)   United Nations common system activities on information-handling standards regularly reported in ACCIS Newsletter.

Programme element 2.7.   Indexing vocabulary

13.   In its resolution 1981/63, the Economic and Social Council called for continued elaboration of vocabularies of common terminology, and ACC, in its report on strengthening the co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system, called for the establishment of a common vocabulary at the generic level which could be used for indexing substantive documents of the United Nations organizations, technical co-operation projects and a variety of other purposes (E/1982/85, para. 25).   Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/71 calls for compiling, updating and popularizing common indexing vocabularies at the generic level.

Several activities are presently under way in the United Nations common system which will lead in 1984 to the publication of revised indexing vocabularies of a generic nature.   These include the Macrothesaurus, the UNBIS Thesaurus and the POPIN (Population Multilingual) Thesaurus.   In all three, use has been made of the indexing vocabulary prepared as part of the earlier IOB activity which led to the publication of "Broad Terms for United Nations Programmes and Activities".   ACCIS will prepare an informative brochure describing the many developments in this area and will formulate a proposal for further action to be undertaken on an inter-agency basis.

Objective

United Nations system to work towards the preparation of a United Nations thesaurus.

Activities

(a)   Draw up a list of the major activities in indexing vocabulary (thesauri) development and revision presently under way;

(b)   Prepare a brochure explaining the usefulness of indexing vocabularies in international information systems, what vocabularies are presently employed in the United Nations system and practical guidance in their use;

(c)   Prepare a plan for the development of a United Nations thesaurus.

Output

(a)   Brochure on thesauri and international information systems;

(b)   Plan for the development of a United Nations thesaurus.

Programme element 2.8.   Publication of the ACCIS Newsletter

14.   Particular attention is being devoted to the development of the ACCIS Newsletter as a vehicle for reporting on information developments (technology,

systems, meetings, events and publications), both within and outside the United Nations system, and as a forum for debate. At present, the Newsletter is published on a bi-monthly basis but, depending on reader response and Secretariat demands, it may become a monthly publication. To encourage reading and facilitate distribution, the Newsletter will retain its four-page format. Page one is devoted to the ACCIS work programme; page two to new developments in information technology (microcomputers, software packages, telecommunications and networking); page three to United Nations information systems, meetings convened by the United Nations and other international organizations concerned with information; and page four to forthcoming meetings and to reviews of recent pertinent publications.

Activities

(a) Select and summarize United Nations reports and studies dealing with development of information systems;

(b) Review technical serials for newsworthy items;

(c) Review books and other new non-United Nations publications dealing with topics relevant to the ACCIS work programme;

(d) Compile calendars and details of meetings within and outside the United Nations system dealing with information systems and give details of forthcoming conferences etc.

Output

ACCIS Newsletter.

Subprogramme 3. Register of development activities

15. Following proposals made by ACC in its report on strenthening the co-ordination of information systems in the United Nations system (E/1982/85, paras. 33-36), the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1982/71 and the General Assembly in its resolution 37/226, called for the preparation of a meaningful register of development activities. ACCIS has assigned high priority to this project and has established a Technical Panel which will concentrate on the preparation of a pilot register based on existing project information systems.

Objective

Production of a pilot register of ongoing development activities.

Activities

(a) Prepare a comparative table of data elements being used in project registers by United Nations organizations;

(b) Review this comparative table in the light of the requirements of Member States;

(c)   Define contents of a pilot data base for review and acceptance by United Nations organizations and Member States;

(d)   Present to ACCIS at its next session a detailed costed proposal and implementation plan for the creation of an on-line pilot register;

(e)   Implement the pilot register.

Output

(a)   Proposal for a pilot information system on development projects;

(b)   Pilot register operational.

Subprogramme 4.   Proposals for new information systems

16.   Making use of data collected for the Directory of United Nations Information Systems and Services and other source material and expertise available to it, the ACCIS secretariat provides advice to organizations planning new systems or proposing major alterations to existing ones.   A growing number of such requests is being received.   In many cases, advice can be provided directly on the basis of existing information; but, in other instances, the Secretariat can only refer organizations to qualified consultants within and outside the United Nations system who might undertake feasibility or technical studies at the requesting organization's expense.   From the requests received so far, it is clear that there is a lack of basic information about what has been developed elsewhere and of relatively straightforward "how to" information.   Within the limited resources available, the ACCIS secretariat will continue to provide such advisory services to concerned organizations.

Objectives

(a)   Avoidance of unnecessary duplication in the development or operation of information systems in different organizations or in the same organization;

(b)   Compatibility ensured between information systems in the same or related field.

Activities

(a)   Review proposals for new information systems and for major modifications to existing ones;

(b)   Show alternative means of adapting existing information systems in same or related field;

(c)   Provide a pool of expertise to assist in the selection and design of appropriate systems.

Output

Advice to organizations.

Subprogramme 5. Basic co-ordination services

Programme element 5.1. Organization and servicing of ACCIS meetings

17. ACCIS will normally meet once a year to review the work programme and its budgetary implications, to respond to requests and to resolutions of intergovernmental bodies concerned with the system-wide co-ordination of information systems and to deal with matters brought to its attention by organizations and by interorganization secretariats. The Steering Committee will meet at least twice a year, in conjunction with the ACCIS plenary session and with other sessions of CCAQ or the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions. The ACCIS secretariat will provide the necessary co-ordination and support resources needed to service the meetings of ACCIS and its Steering Committee.

Activities

    (a) Organize the ACCIS and Steering Committee sessions;

    (b) Prepare reports and materials to be reviewed at the meetings;

    (c) Prepare meetings summaries and final reports.

Output

Working papers for ACCIS meetings; reports of ACCIS meetings.

Programme element 5.2. Maintenance of the ACCIS reference library

18. As part of its information support to the ACCIS work programme, the secretariat needs to maintain a collection of studies, reports and publications produced by United Nations organizations which deal with information systems. In order to keep up-to-date on matters concerning information systems development, telematics etc., subscriptions to specialized serials and regular acquisition of pertinent books and monographs are required. Particularly relevant material is either abstracted and stored on computer files for future reference or photocopied or clipped and filed.

Activities

    (a) Maintaining a small reference library on information systems and related questions;

    (b) Preparing book notes on relevant new publications.

Output

    (a) Organized collection of reports, studies etc.;

    (b) Information support for the ACCIS work programme.

Programme element 5.3. Management and administrative support

19. This programme element includes overall management, interorganizational and intergovernmental liaison, and administrative services provided by the ACCIS secretariat as general support to the work programme. Given the size of the Secretariat, and considering its objectives, the secretariat will make extensive use of computer services, such as text processing, electronic transmission of messages, storage retrieval and printing of correspondence, reports and address labels.

Activities

    (a) Programme planning, management and reporting;

    (b) Budget and administration;

    (c) Participation in interorganizational and intergovernmental meetings dealing with United Nations information systems;

    (d) Participation in seminars, conferences and symposia concerning information technology;

    (e) Ongoing co-operation with interorganization secretariats, CCAQ, the Joint Inspection Unit and the International Civil Service Commission on matters of common interest.

Output

    Overall support to the ACCIS work programme.

Resource requirements (at revised 1983 rates)

Established posts

20. Staff resources required to carry out the ACCIS work programme are estimated at 96 work-months at the Professional and higher level. No changes are envisaged with regard to the composition of staff. Posts are consequently maintained at the same number and level as approved for 1983, i.e., the Executive Secretary (D-2), two senior systems officers (P-5), one editor/research officer (P-2), one documentation assistant (G-6), one administrative assistant/secretary (G-5) and one secretary (G-4). The distribution of Professional staff resources by subprogramme would be as follows:

Subprogramme	Work-months for established professional posts
1. Information needs of Member States	10
2. Tools for accessing United Nations common system information	56
3. Register of development activities	10
4. Proposals for new information systems	6
5. Basic co-ordination services	<u>14</u>
Total programme	<u>96</u>

General temporary assistance ($16,200)

21. General temporary assistance resources are estimated in the amount of $16,200 and relate to peak requirements for the typing of reports for ACCIS meetings and for data entry.

Consultants ($98,600)

22. The estimates under this heading ($98,600) correspond to about 13 work-months of consultant services and are required for the provision of technical expertise not available within the secretariat, to assist in the work of the Technical Panels, conduct surveys on information systems requirements, evaluate commercial telecommunication and data-base facilities and assist in the definition of policies and guidelines for the promotion of United Nations information products.

Personal service contracts ($103,400)

23. A provision in the amount of $103,400 is estimated for the programming services of computer specialists in data-base management systems and in packages, such as electronic mail and computer-based conferences. These services will be required in order to implement on-line data-bases, such as the United Nations Directory of Information Systems and Services and the pilot Register of Development Activities, and to assist in the experimental use of computer-based conferences by the Technical Panels.

Official travel of staff ($76,900)

24. With the utilization of computer conference and electronic transmission of messages, it is hoped to maintain travel costs at a substantially lower level than in the past. Detailed travel forecasts are summarized as follows:

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Participation of Chairman and/or Executive Secretary in sessions of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in New York	9 000
Participation of Chairman, Executive Secretary and one staff member in ACCIS sessions in New York	5 400
Attendance of secretariat staff in Technical Panel meetings held away from Geneva	10 500
Missions to New York, Paris and regional commissions on specific projects	22 400
Participation of ACCIS in interorganization and intergovernmental conferences dealing with United Nations information systems	22 700
Participation of secretariat staff in international conferences and symposia on information systems	6 900
Total	76 900

Contractual services ($155,500)

25. Requirements under this heading cover two main categories of services: external printing and data processing. Estimates for external printing ($55,500) include the publication costs of the Directory of United Nations Information Systems and Services and the bi-monthly issuance of the ACCIS Newsletter and the cost of printing a number of brochures and training materials. Estimates for data-processing services ($100,000) cover use of computing facilities of the International Computing Centre ($65,000) and of other computing facilities located in Europe and North America ($35,000). The ACCIS secretariat will rely heavily on the availability of these services for use on applications ranging from text processing and office administration to computer-based conferences, electronic transmission of messages and on-line data-base processing. Estimates for the use of ICC include the rental of remote terminals installed in the secretariat offices, processing, technical support, computer supplies and other ancillary services. The increase of $46,300 is attributable mainly to the greater emphasis that ACCIS places on the use of computer technology for the dissemination of and access to United Nations information.

General operating expenses ($14,000)

26. The requirements under this heading would provide for communication costs incurred by the secretariat, such as cables and telexes, long-distance telephone calls, pouch charges and postage.

Supplies and materials ($18,000)

27. In addition to office stationery and supplies ($2,000), provision is made under this heading for the acquisition of books and reports and for subscription to serials and other publications on information technology and information systems ($16,000). These publications will help the Secretariat to keep abreast of innovations and developments. Topics and excerpts of particular significance to the United Nations organizations will be included regularly in the ACCIS Newsletter.

II. Revised estimates under section 28G., Electronic Data Processing and Information Systems Division - Advisory Committee for the Co-ordination of Information Systems (United Nations share)

28. In view of the fact that the ACCIS budget estimates had not been established at the time of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, it was not then possible to determine what the share of the United Nations would be. Consequently, a provisional amount of $273,400 was included for the United Nations share of the cost of ACCIS. This amount represented the maintenance of the level of resources appropriated for the biennium 1982-1983 in respect of the United Nations share of the cost of IOB. In this connection, it will be recalled that initial appropriations for the United Nations share of the cost of IOB were approved for 1982 only in the light of the ACC decision to approve a budget for IOB for one year. Subsequently, upon the ACC decision to approve a budget for the entire biennium, revised estimates were submitted to the General Assembly and additional appropriations requested. However, the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions did not approve further appropriations, the Secretary-General having indicated that the budget approved for 1982 would not be fully utilized.

29. On the basis of the estimates of $1,306,000 for ACCIS for the biennium 1984-1985, the United Nations share, representing approximately 43 per cent of these estimates, would be $561,600, or $288,200 in excess of the provisional amount included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985. However, in view of the fact that expenditures during the biennium 1982-1983 have proven to be below the approved estimates, no additional appropriation is requested at this stage. Revised estimates may be submitted to the General Assembly at the thirty-ninth session, based on the experience gained during 1984.