

recent years, it was responsible for administering FONACIDE funds, which in part are used for educational purposes.

- The National Council for Education and Labour (CNET) was established under the MEC Organic Law of 24/01/2017. It is the consultative MEC-MTESS bi-ministerial body for education and labour matters. Its main objective is the consolidation of a National Education and Labour System. CNET requires strengthening for the establishment of a NQS and will be supported by the new action.
- FONACIDE is a fund created from royalties from the Itaipú binational hydroelectric dam established by Law 4758/2012. 30% of FONACIDE funds go by law to the “Fondo para la Excelencia de la Educación e Investigación” (FEEI) and 25% to Regional and Municipal governments, who must use at least 50% of the former for investment in education infrastructure (construction, maintenance, equipment) and 30% for school lunches for vulnerable children. The recently adopted Law N° 7264 known as “zero hunger” aims to ensure greater efficiency and efficacy in the use of public funds for school feeding programmes.
- Local Authorities: Regional governments and municipalities have certain responsibilities in defining local education needs along with the construction and maintenance of educational infrastructure and the provision of school feeding (partly through the use of FONACIDE). Despite improvements in micro-planning, new strategies must be implemented to strengthen and reinforce the management capacities of these local levels of government and ensure greater articulation with MEC central government.
- Teachers are largely dissatisfied with their working conditions. Teachers, most of whom are out of date and in the process of retirement, are key to improve learning. It is important to accompany them in their role as agents of change, especially those working with the most vulnerable groups, and to ensure social dialogue with their representative associations and unions, which are often very resistant to change. School principals and supervisors must assume a greater leadership and pedagogical role to improve quality at the local level.

Rights Holders

- Private sector including:

Education and Entrepreneurial Advisory Councils (Consejos Educativo- Empresariales) – several Advisory Councils have been constituted in Concepción. The Government aims to expand the network with the purpose of meeting regularly with the productive sector to better understand local, territorial needs and the professional profiles required for current and future jobs.

Paraguayan Industrial Union (UIP)/ Rural Association of Paraguay (ARP)

UIP is the most representative industrial business organisation. It brings together medium and large companies and was founded in 1936. Its mission is to protect and promote the interests and rights of its members. The aim is to associate the UIP to several TVET actions and particularly with aim of ensuring the relevance of technical education and the buy-in of the private sector in relation to on-the-job training and sandwich courses. Similarly, the ARP is a significant and influential organisation representing the livestock industry. The ARP not only enhances agricultural productivity and sustainability but also contributes to the broader economic and social development of Paraguay.

- Civil society organisations working in the education sector play a multifaceted and critical role in education policy. The engagement of civil society organisations (CSOs) and stakeholders in education helps to ensure that policies are inclusive, effective, and reflective of the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve. Through advocacy, monitoring, service delivery, and capacity building, civil society organisations aim to ensure that education policies meet the needs of students and contribute to the overall development and empowerment of local communities.
- Parents’ organisations, which have specific roles attributed by MEC for channelling and managing small budgets for school refurbishment and school lunch projects.