

CITY, June 26 (CNA/EWTN News) .- The Vatican's financial watchdog signed a memorandum of understanding with its Argentine counterpart Tuesday, extending and bolstering its anti-money laundering reforms.

For the first time, the signing of such a memorandum took place within the Vatican. It was signed by the director of the Holy See's Financial Information Authority, Rene Bruehlhart, and the president of Argentina's Unidad de Informacion Financera, Jose Sbattella, in Palazzo San Carlo, the AIF's headquarters.

"We are very pleased to have signed this memorandum of understanding with Argentina today," Bruehlhart stated June 24. "This is an important step to further expand the network to support global efforts to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism."

"We are looking forward to fruitful cooperation with Argentina, which will be beneficial to both parties."

In the past two years, the AIF has signed such bilateral agreements with its counterparts in more than 30 countries.