**Belgian, MP decries IMF measures**

By NATION Reporter

The Structural Adjustment Programmes

being undertaken in

most African countries will lead

to further marginalisation of the

African woman, the Member of

Parliament for Antwerp, Belgium, Mrs Marijke van

Hemeldonck, said yesterday.

"The harsh austerity measures

imposed by the IMF and World

Bank which demand massive reductions

in the health and social

services budget will severely affect

the African woman by increasing

her burden as provider

for the family," she said.

Mrs Hemeldonck said the programmes were being implemented

at a time when health budgets

should be expanded because of

the serious risks of infections due

to the Aids epidemic.

She was addressing the Press

at a Nairobi hotel during a brief

stop-over on her way to Botswana

for a European Economic

Community-African Carribean

and Pacific (EEC-ACP) joint

assembly.

Mrs Hemeldonck said some of

the UN conventions on the status

of women should be revised. She also called for the

strengthening of the 1974 UN

Declaration' on Violence against

Women and Children

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