**Vatican's move criticized**

**Family planning group speaks out**

By PETER ORIARE

The African Council of the International

Planned Parenthood

Federation yesterday criticised

attempts by the Vatican to derail

provisions of the plan of action

for the International Conference

on Population and Development

scheduled for September this

year in Egypt.

In a statement, the African Regional

Council also condemned

attempts by the Vatican to block

the candidacy of Prof Fred T. Sai

(Ghanaian), the global President

of IPPF, as the chairman of the

Cairo conference. The resolutions were adopted

by the council attending the

IPPFAR conference at the Grand

Regency Hotel in' Nairobi.

The provisions on the Plan of

Action focuses on problems facing

Africa such as gender equality,

fertility control, induced abortion,

maternal death, young

sexuality, HIV and Aids ..

The African Council, Prof Sai

said, was the right candidate to chair the Cairo conference because

he had the .technical expertise and experience to head such

a conference.

Early in April this year in New York during -the meeting of the

third ·preparatory commission

which' is organising the conference,

a lobby group for the Vatican

tried to block the candidacy of

Prof Sai ..

According to Dr Richard B. Turkson, the legal consultant for

the African Region, Prof Sai had

written to the Vatican requesting

dialogue between IPPF and the

Pope regarding issues such as

abortion, maternal death and

contraceptive use.

"The expected dialogue has

never taken place,' and on the

contrary, the Vatican has

organised conferences to drum up

its interests and during which they have carried out campaigns

against Prof Sai," he said.

Mr Francis Ekon, the regional

president, appealed to .institutions,

women and the youth to

work hand-in-hand to make the

conference a success.

Earlier, Mr Ekon had said the

African Regional Council plans to

hold a conference on Islam and

population control for Islamic

countries of Africa.

The council also recommended

that a funding facility be established for refugees as refugees

needed special family planning

services.