



## **IAAF APPEAL AGAINST UAE ATHLETICS FEDERATION AND MS DESALEGN UPHeld BY CAS**

**23 October 2017, Monaco:** The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) today welcomes the decision delivered by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in the case of the IAAF vs. UAE Athletics Federation and Betlehem Desalegn (the Athlete).

Ms Desalegn was charged by the IAAF for a doping offence in 2016 on the basis of an abnormal longitudinal profile in the context of the IAAF's Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) Programme.

Following a decision of the UAE National Anti-Doping Agency, Ms Desalegn was initially cleared of a doping offence on the eve of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. The IAAF immediately exercised its right of appeal to CAS and re-imposed a provisional suspension upon the athlete to preserve the integrity of athletics competition in Rio. In a subsequent decision, the UAE Athletics Federation imposed a reduced sanction of 15 months which was again appealed to CAS by the IAAF.

The AIU is pleased to note that CAS found that the Athlete had committed an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) as a result of likely use of a Prohibited Substance or Method and imposed a full 2-year period of ineligibility and disqualification of her results from 6 March 2014 through to 13 August 2015.

The CAS award will shortly be published on the AIU website.

This is the 94<sup>th</sup> doping case successfully brought forward by the IAAF in the context of its ABP Programme, by far the most successful to date across all sports and all countries.

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### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **About the Athletics Integrity Unit**

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) is the independent body that manages all doping and non-doping integrity-related matters for the sport of athletics. The remit of the AIU includes anti-doping, the pursuit of individuals engaged in age or competition results manipulation, investigating fraudulent behavior with regards to transfers of allegiance, and detecting other misconduct including bribery and breaches of betting rules. It is the AIU's role to drive cheats out of our sport, and to do everything within its power to support honest athletes around the world who dedicate their lives to reaching their sporting goals through dedication and hard work.

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