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Press Release
SAI stands up for Dutee Chand's Cause

Sports Authority of India (SAI) is determined to support Ms. Dutee Chand in her efforts to return to athletic competition. It may be recalled Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has disqualified Ms. Dutee Chand from competition. Ms. Chand has been declared ineligible by AFI under the Hyperandrogenism policy of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

The Hyperandrogenism policy recommends that a woman athlete with hyperandrogenism may lower her androgen to a specified level with help of hormone therapy or surgery and then compete as a woman. However, SAI believe that these interventions are unethical, unscientific and are harmful to the athlete in the long run.

Experts have advised SAI that the policy violates medical ethics and jeopardize the long-term health of the athletes. So, SAI is supporting Dutee Chand to challenge this discriminatory policy. This is in no way directed towards AFI or IAAF.

Sport celebrates human diversity, regardless of inherent natural characteristics. Such a policy is contrary to the very spirit of sports. Only women athletes fall under these regulations and there is enough evidence that athletes from countries like India are targeted and tested under this policy. So, this policy discriminates against women and specifically women from the Global South.

Moreover, there is no clear evidence that naturally inherent high androgen is a significant determinant of athletic performance. SAI had nominated Dr. Payoshni Mitra to advise Ms. Chand. Dr. Payoshni Mitra is an expert in Gender issues in sports. SAI has created an Advisory Board of Experts to advice Dutee Chand to challenge the Hyperandrogenism policy. Among them are Professor Bruce Kidd, Former Olympian and

Professor of Kinesiology and Physical Education, University of Toronto and Member and Former Chair of Commonwealth Advisory Board on Sports and Dr. Katrina Karkazis, Bioethicist, Centre for Biomedical Research, Stanford University. An advocate of international repute, with special experience in sport disputes, is currently advising Ms. Dutee Chand.

SAI has pledged to support Ms. Chand in her fight for justice. She deserves to compete with her naturally-produced androgen