MEDIA RELEASE

FOOTBALL

THE APPEAL FILED BY THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM OF KENYA PARTIALLY UPHELD BY THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

Lausanne, 10 June 2022 – The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has issued its decision in the arbitration procedure between 22 football players of the women's national football team of Kenya, the Football Kenya Federation (FKF), the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA) in relation to the appeal filed by the 22 football players against the decision of the FKF to withdraw its women's national team from the first qualifying round of the 2022 Africa Women Cup of Nations (AWCON). Following such withdrawal, the CAF decided that the team of Uganda would be directly qualified for the next round of the competition.

The appeal was directed against the FKF decision only. No appeal has been filed against the CAF decision to register the withdrawal of the women's national football team of Kenya and to qualify the women's national football team of Uganda.

The CAS arbitrator in charge of this matter ruled that CAS had jurisdiction to rule on the appeal filed by the 22 players on 18 February 2022 against the FKF decision but did not have jurisdiction to rule on the request to order the CAF to reinstate the Kenya Women's National Football Team to the AWCON and to rearrange the matches against Uganda in the second AWCON qualifying round before the start of the AWCON finals group stage on 2 July 2022.

As to the merits, the sole arbitrator ruled that the decision rendered on 20 January 2022 by Mr Barry Otieno, former CEO of FKF, on behalf of the FKF, was to be set aside as it had been issued "*ultra vires*", i.e. by a person who was no longer entitled to act on behalf of the FKF.

Since no appeal has been filed against the CAF decision to qualify Uganda to the next qualifying round, the CAS could not review it.