

Air Accident in South Sudan: IFALPA reiterates investigation according to international rules

MONTREAL, Canada – The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations - IFALPA would like to express its most sincere condolences to the families of victims of the Antonov-12B accident today which happened shortly after take-off from Juma International Airport in South Sudan, and extends its heartfelt wishes for a quick recovery to any who were injured.

As with any such tragic events, and echoing all other major aviation stakeholders, IFALPA urges all those involved to avoid any speculation and calls for a full technical investigation into the circumstances of this accident according to the following, internationally agreed principles:

- Such investigation should strictly follow the provisions laid out in ICAO Annex 13. Its objective should be to find the accident's contributing factors and make the necessary safety recommendations. It should not be impeded by administrative or judicial proceedings, whose only purpose is to apportion blame or liability. Accident investigators should have unhampered access to all evidential material including the wreckage, flight recorders and ATS records, and unrestricted control over it to ensure that a detailed examination can be made without delay by the relevant safety experts.
- Whilst the investigation is taking place, with the gathering, recording and analysis of all relevant information including statements from witnesses, there should be no disclosure of the accident's details, data or records, in order to avoid misinterpretation of the events that occurred, and early conclusions. Indeed, the premature publication of information related to the accident can compromise flight safety if such information lacks the context of the entire body of factual investigative data. Moreover, none of the accident records should be made available for purposes other than accident or incident investigation,

IFALPA's experts on accident investigation and their operational knowledge of the aircraft are at the disposal of the investigation agency for advice or consultation during both the investigation process and the drafting of the accident report and related safety recommendations.

IFALPA will closely monitor the investigation to ensure that it is conducted in accordance with the above principles and that all efforts are made to prevent the reoccurrence of such a tragic event.

###

Note to Editors: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 100 countries world-wide. IFALPA's mission is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations.

See the Federation website www.ifalpa.org

©2015 The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations

In the interests of flight safety, reproduction of this Press Release in whole or in part is encouraged.

It may not be offered for sale or used commercially. All reprints must credit IFALPA.

For more information contact Anna Lou, IFALPA Communications & Marketing Coordinator, at tel +1 514 419 1191 or annalou@ifalpa.org