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*TRAINING FOR LEGAL AND JUDICIAL REFORM, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE  
ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS, TIME ZONES, AND LANGUAGE BARRIERS*

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**SUNSGLOW**  
**GLOBAL TRAINING IN THE RULE OF LAW**  
**The Birth of a Universal Mission**

By: Dr. Yassin El- Ayouty

It was 1998 when I was flying from New York City to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to teach my course in public international law at the Nova Law Center (NLC). The Dean of the Center, Professor Joseph Harbaugh, had just designated me “Distinguished Professor and Director of the U.N. Division of the International Law Clinic”. While on the airplane, I learned with great sadness that the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar-Es-Salam had been exploded. There I sat in utter disbelief contemplating the huge human loss and the impact of that tragedy on world peace, especially Arab-Muslim-African relations. The world of the post cold war was emerging violent and lawless. How can I help in the Herculean process of regaining world sanity through law?

Could it be done through Training in the Rule of Law? Why not, I reasoned. Training has been what I did best throughout my 50 year career since I graduated from the Teachers Institute in Cairo, Egypt, as the top graduate in 1948. Furthermore, through my Fulbright assignment in Trenton, New Jersey in 1953, my adjunct professorship at St. John’s University, New York City, my headship of diplomatic training at the UN Institute for Training and Research in the early 1970’s, and then my leadership of the Africa Division of the UN Decolonization Department from 1975 to 1983, I felt that I was more than prepared to launch as institutional framework to help with that lofty objective.

So the idea of **SUNSGLOW - Global Training in the Rule of Law** was in fact born out of an impulse to try to better civil society through legal training, without impinging upon state sovereignty and without any intervention in sovereign internal affairs. No dictation from **SUNSGLOW** and no interference in **SUNSGLOW's** independence in the fashioning of its programs with outside funding. The wisdom of a distinguished Board of Advisors, Associates and friends was to be the guiding light in this process.

Thus since the year 2000, and especially since 9/11, **SUNSGLOW** has metamorphosed from a Not-for-Profit, to a for-Profit private corporation but with a public service mission to build bridges between the various legal and judicial communities by going to the areas of need; especially in the developing world, to hold our symposia without fanfare, but with a deep commitment to its task.

And with the expansion of its regional liaison centers which now count **nine** (soon to be 10 with the addition of Prague) on every continent, **SUNSGLOW's** mission truly assumed the aura of a public enterprise whose goal is to enhance the positive aspects of globalization through legal and judicial training. Its motto became a reality; its reach became universal; its funding remained based on a variety of sources, and its youthful component, namely its Associates, became its voluntary "Peace Corp" hailing from 24 countries.

So far we conducted six programs in New York City; Cairo; Egypt and Nassau, the Bahamas. Yet, now with its reputation on the rise, there is the promise and the challenge to conduct in 2005/2006 at least 3 more programs in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt; Chennai (Madras), India; and Geneva, Switzerland (or Freiburg, Germany).

The idea of **SUNSGLOW** was born on a flight from New York to Florida in 1998. It is now soaring high, because its time has come, not to mention that is uncomplicated, universal, and has a mass appeal everywhere.

It was therefore enhancing to have Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the U.N., tell **SUNSGLOW** Board at the birth of our institution: "... at this crucial time in world affairs...the UN is partner and looks forward to working with you." Since then, Global developments have caused the U.N. General Assembly to resolve that strengthening the Rule of Law is one of the basic elements of modern international relations.