The IUCr Africa Initiative was founded to develop Crystallography and Structural Sciences in Physics, Chemistry, Geology and Biology in Africa. Crystallography schools have been organized in Cameroon, Ivory Coasts, Morocco and Algeria from 2008 to 2013. Then thanks to a collaboration with UNESCO, ICSU and diffractometer companies, open laboratory and traveling laboratories concepts have been organized in North Africa, Sub Saharan Africa and South Africa starting during the IYCr. These workshops allow to build a network of African scientists who decided to organize the first Pan African conference on Crystallography (PCCr1) in Dschang (Cameroon, October 2016, web site http://pccr1-2016.univ-dschang.org/) with more than 200 participants; this very successful meeting is the first of a series which will be held every 2 years in Africa: PCCr2 will be organized at University of Ghana (see PCCr2 booth at this meeting). In parallel a steering committee has been setup which should transform into the African Crystallography Association, AfCA, to bring all African crystallographers together. This talk will discuss how it was possible and how we see the future.

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