

A blue horizontal bar with the text "MISSION STORIES" in white, uppercase letters. To the left of the bar are two smaller, light blue squares of varying sizes.

## MISSION STORIES

### ONUCI's soldiers present their countries

#### Morocco

The cultural diversity and richness of the Kingdom of Morocco dates back to between 600 and 800 BC, Commandant Mohamed Selloum said as he highlighted the success of his people in conserving and perpetuating their rich traditions and customs. The various regions keep their identities, values and traditions even as they all melt into the Kingdom of Morocco, he added proudly, pointing to big imperial cities such as Rabat, Fès, Marrakesh and Meknès as evidence of this.

Like its traditions and culture, Morocco's cuisine varies from region to region, said Selloum. The most common dishes, he added, were the famous couscous, as well as tajines, patties and mutton roasted on the spit, followed at the end of the meal by patries, sweetmeats and mint tea. In Bouaké, Friday is usually couscous day for the contingent, according to Selloum. "We brought our cooks with us to Bouaké," he explained.

"Morocco is also the festivals organized each year to highlight our cultural patrimony," such as the festival of sacred music in Fès and the annual festival of traditional music in Marrakesh, the peacekeeper said. There is also an annual music festival in the town of Essaouira, while Tetouan and Marrakesh have annual film festivals since Moroccans love the cinema, he added.

A special feature of Moroccan culture is the "Moussem" or "Fantasia" - horse races over a distance of about 200 metres in which men in traditional costumes armed with old rifles fire in the air when the first contestant crosses the line. "The « Moussem » are organized in each region of the Kingdom of Morocco," Selloum said, adding that all these activities were aimed at highlighting traditions of a country with a strong potential for tourism.



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