



**MINISTRY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
Date of Publication: 25 March 2022**

1157. Mr M Chetty (DA) to ask the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

- (1) Whether, she has found that her department's statement on 24 February 2022 calling for Russia to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukraine in line with the United Nations Charter is contradictory to her department's initial position on the war in Ukraine, which was purported to be the same with the position of The Presidency of sitting on the fence and requesting increased efforts for diplomacy and to find a solution to help de-escalate tensions and avert armed conflict by both Russia and Ukraine, even after the war had broken out; if not, why not; if so, what (a) is the name and/or are the names of the officials responsible for issuing the statement on 24 February 2022 and (b) action has been taken against the officials responsible for issuing the statement;
- (2) Whether she had sight of the statement before it was released; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? **NW1414E**

REPLY:

- (1) No. The statement by the Department rightfully called for Russia and all parties to respect International Law, including the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter. All subsequent statements at the United Nations, or in the media reiterated the call for all to abide by, and respect International Law, International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. We underscore that our call remains for an immediate ceasefire so that negotiations for a lasting peace can continue.
 - (a) Not applicable.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (2) The statement went through the normal process of approval within the Department.