EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Verified Step-by-Step Peace Framework | v0.4 | Review edition 30 September 2026

Initial expert review: Ukraine/Russia. The additional conflict tracks in the German Concept Paper remain separate, less developed discussion modules.

Action - independent verification - legally approved benefit - next agreed step

Purpose and status

Private, independent discussion draft by Daniel Widera, developed with AI assistance. Internal adversarial review completed; independent expert review pending. No institutional authorisation.

The proposal structures a ceasefire and sequential withdrawal process without assuming trust or deciding territorial status through a technical control line. Political consent, a mandate, funding and legal foundations remain outstanding.

Stages and prerequisites

Stage	Performance to be verified	Proposed consequence
Before launch	Baseline, access, mandated verification, communication and fallback channels	No activation without operational readiness
72 h / 7 days	Defined ceasefire, protected sites and civilian maritime rules	Narrow civilian authorisations only after legal approval
30 / 90 days	Cumulatively confirmed criteria, expanded restraint, transparency and disengagement	Limited, time-bound civilian trade windows; prepare withdrawal
VSR-1 / next	Withdrawal from relevant sectors plus minimum civilian readiness	A small next benefit; larger benefits require cumulative progress

72 hours and 7, 30 and 90 days are proposed negotiation parameters. They are not empirically validated and do not replace operational readiness or agreed verification criteria.

Territorial and defensive safeguards

- The Line of Cessation of Hostilities (LCH) records an agreed baseline; it is not a state border and does not recognise annexation.
- Disengagement along the LCH is symmetrical. Russian withdrawal from agreed occupied Ukrainian sectors is a separate, asymmetrical process.
- No general Ukrainian disarmament. Defensive capabilities outside agreed zones remain possible. Security guarantees require separate commitments.

WITHDRAWAL, PROTECTION AND REVIEW

Executive Brief | Second page of the module

VSR completion = verified military withdrawal + confirmed minimum civilian readiness. Only then may the associated, legally pre-approved benefit be activated. Humanitarian assistance remains independent.

Progress beyond a symbolic pilot

VSR-1 demonstrates the mechanism. Technical assessment of follow-on sectors starts within five proposed days. At 30-day proposed intervals, an agreed review assesses progress, obstacles and implementation; deadlines require negotiation. It does not impose automatic territorial withdrawal.

Compliance preserves agreed benefits within their approved duration. Additional benefits require new verified performance. Independently confirmed technical or humanitarian obstacles may justify a pause; unjustified stagnation opens no next benefit. Renewal conditions must be specified for each authorisation.

Verification and incidents

- Multiple genuinely independent evidence paths, safe access and agreed fallback procedures; technical failure does not establish culpability.
- Proven deliberate obstruction is a separate agreed violation. Parties receive defined inspection and challenge rights.
- Unclear local incident: protect and investigate. Confirmed limited breach: correct. Systematic serious breach: apply agreed, legally permissible consequences.

Humanitarian protection

Basic services, protection of detainees and children, missing-persons work and humanitarian communication are not economic bargaining benefits. The incentive ladder does not alter existing humanitarian duties. Transition areas need named civilian responsibilities, mine-risk management and voluntary, informed return.

Legal and operational prerequisites

- Verification mandate, staff, budget, data access, protection and decision/dispute procedures.
- A competent authority and valid legal basis for each specific benefit; positive lists, duration, audit and suspension rules.
- Separate reviews of international law, military verification, sanctions law and civilian transition, including Ukrainian expertise.

Annex A: reciprocity matrix. Annex B: verification protocol. Annex C: civilian transition. All annexes are complete as drafts; none has received independent expert validation.

Sources and scope of reference

[Q1] United Nations General Assembly: A/RES/ES-11/10, Support for lasting peace in Ukraine (24 February 2026). Reaffirms Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and calls for an immediate, full and unconditional ceasefire. Open source

[Q3] European Commission: Sanctions adopted following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine (Accessed 30 September 2026). Overview of measures, legal acts and FAQs. Existing derogations do not automatically authorise the proposed trade window. Open source

Sources checked on 30 September 2026. They support the background, not the feasibility or acceptance of the proposed mechanism.