

Panel structure

Each session will feature a panel Chair who will lead the discussion and introduce the co-panelists. The Chair will also serve as the discussant, with the following responsibilities:

- Synthesizes presentations and connects the main contributions of speakers.
- Provides critical analysis of the presented material.
- Connects technology and innovation to strategy, concepts of operation, and regulation.
- Facilitates audience engagement by opening and moderating the Q&A portion to guide active dialogue.

Each session concludes with a moderate, dynamic Q&A and audience discussion led by the Chair, who will engage attendees by asking questions and guiding the conversation.

Please note that we ask speakers to limit the number of slides in their presentations at the Forum to encourage an open, dynamic exchange of views, with a focus on discussion and dialogue.

The workshop will be conducted in English and according to the Chatham House Rule

Dress Code: Business casual

Workshop Moderator: Ms. Inbar Kirshenboim,

Research fellow, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy

Time	Subject	Panel Chair
Day 1 – Wednesday, 4 November 2026		
08:30 – 09:00	**Workshop Gathering**	
09:00 – 09:10	**Greetings** Mr. Yona Yahav, Mayor of Haifa	
09:10 – 09:25	**Keynote Speaker** Prof. Yuval Steinitz, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems LTD	
09:25 – 09:40	**Facilitator's address** The facilitator's address will present the workshop panels, their thematic focus, management guidelines, and expected outcomes	**Prof. Rear Admiral (Ret.) Shaul Chorev,** Director, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy
09:40 – 10:40	**Panel 1: *Political, Strategic and Operational Dimensions*** **Panel members:** • **Vice Admiral (Ret.) Ioannis Pavlopoulos,** President, Sea Guardian, Greece • **Dr. Patricia Schneider,** Senior Civil Servant, German Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Germany • **Dr. (Cdr.) Arnab Das**, Founder & Director , Maritime Research Center (MRC), Pune, India	**Prof. Carmela Lutmar,** Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, School of Political Sciences, Haifa University and Researcher at The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy
10:40 – 11:40	**Panel 2: *Marine spatial planning (MSP)*** **Panel members:** • **Mr. Dani Amir,** Environmental Planning Specialist	**Prof. Michelle Portman**, Chair, Regional & Urban Planning Program, Technion

	• **Ms. Maya Glick,** Sr. Director, Strategic Projects, Int'l Connectivity, Global Business Division, Bezeq International Ltd. • **Mr. Yigael Ben Ari,** Director, Marine Ranger Force, Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) • **Mr. Florin Nafta,** Operations Research analyst	
11:40 – 12:00	**Coffee Break**	
12:00 – 13:30	**Panel 3:** ***Technological Enablers and System Architecture*** **Panel members:** • **Cdr. (Res.) Shahar Franks,** Senior Director – Product Strategy, DSIT Solutions Ltd. • **Cdr. (Ret.) Eng. Moshe Solomon**, Director, Underwater Acoustics Excellence Center Naval Warfare Directorate, Land and Naval Division, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems LTD • **Dr. Guy Rodnay,** CTO, Skana Robotics • **Mr. Ariel Zibziner**, SVP Customers, Windward • **Prof. Oren Gal**, Director of the Swarm & AI Lab (SAIL), University of Haifa • **Mr. Noam Zitzman,** CEO, NautiLogic AI * *This panel is sponsored by DSIT Solutions Ltd.*	**Mr. Sharon Erlichman**, CTO, The National Center of Blue Economy & Innovation
13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch**	
14:30 – 15:30	**Panel 4:** ***Concept of Operations*** **Panel members:** • **Mr. Amnon Ophir,** Technical Manager, Elbit Naval Systems • **Capt. (Ret.) Amit Farber**, Research fellow, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy • **ATLAS ELEKTRONIK GmbH** Representative, To Be Confirmed • **Cdr. (Ret.) Giyora Saar**, Business Development Manager * *This panel is sponsored by Elbit Naval Systems*	**Capt. (Ret.) Naval Architect Gabriel (Gabi) Kenan,** Research fellow, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy

15:30 – 15:45	**Coffee Break**	
15:45 – 16:30	**Panel 5:** ***Legal, Regulatory, Economic, and Environmental Considerations*** **Panel members:** • **Dr. Ioannis Voudouris**, Assistant Professor, Maritime Transport and Commerce, Frederick University, Cyprus • **Adv. Roiy Cohen**, Partner, S. Friedman, Abramson & Co. • **Cdr. (Ret.) Ido Kaufman,** Vessel Inspector, Administration of Shipping and Ports, The Israeli Ministry of Transport • **Mr. Mark Shipton,** Research fellow, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy	**Adv. Orin Shefler,** Shefler Law Firm And Research fellow, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy
16:30 – 17:00	**Closing Remarks**	**Prof. Rear Admiral (Ret.) Chorev Shaul,** Director, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy
19:30 – 21:30	**Dinner gathering for panelists & foreign guests, Dan Panorama Hotel**	

Time	Subject	Panel Chair
Day 2 – Thursday, 5 November 2026		
08:30 – 09:00	**Workshop Gathering**	
09:00 – 09:30	**Tabletop Exercise (TTX):** Overview and Participant Guidelines	**Capt. (Ret.) Amit Farber,** Research fellow, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy
09:30 – 12:30	**Tabletop Exercise (TTX)** All workshop participants, divided into teams, work through a cross-boundary escalation scenario in the Eastern Mediterranean's underwater domain, testing response challenges, and conduct a horizon scan of transboundary critical infrastructure in the region, laying the foundation for a regional risk assessment	All workshop participants, divided into teams
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch**	
13:30 – 14:00	**Special Address by the Israeli Naval Representative**	
14:00 – 14:15	**Coffee Break**	
14:15 – 14:45	**Closing Remarks** The insights emerging from the workshop and the way forward - practical recommendations, a shared reference model for a real-time UDA framework at the national and regional levels, priority areas for further research, and the post-workshop publication	**Prof. Rear Admiral (Ret.) Shaul Chorev,** Director, The Institute for Maritime Policy and Strategy