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**PROCIV 32
INTER-REP 17**

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	24 February 2026
To:	Delegations

Subject:	Presentation on preparing for High Impact Low Probability (HILP) events
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Delegations will find attached the presentation in subject delivered at the PROCIV CER WP meeting on 17 February 2026.

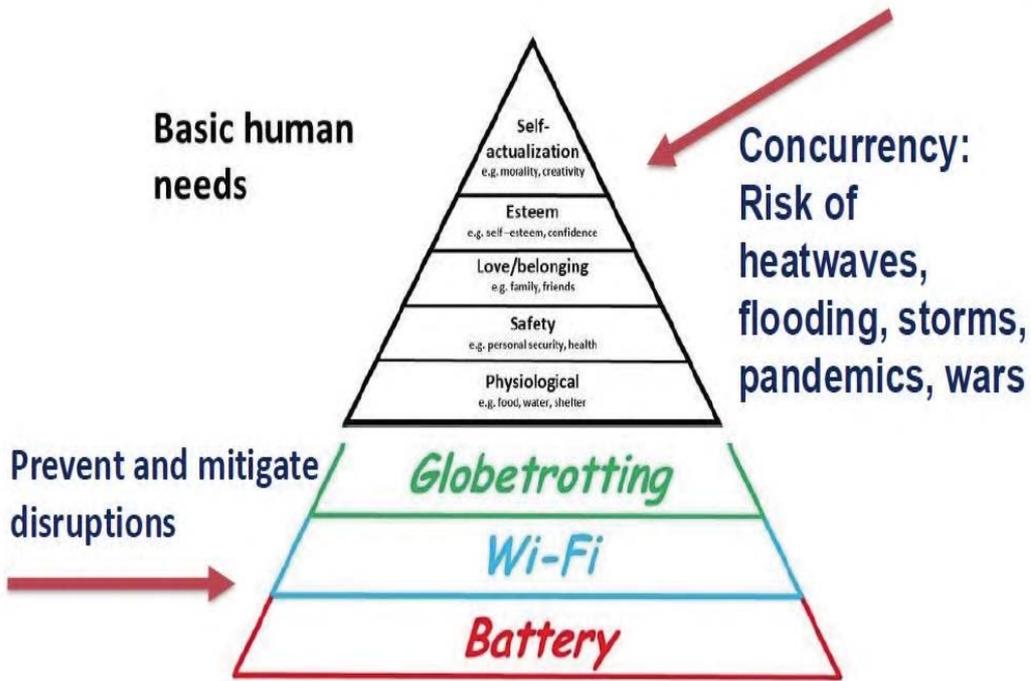
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Preparing for High Impact Low Probability (HILP) events



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Senior Advisor, Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies

It is the context that evolves

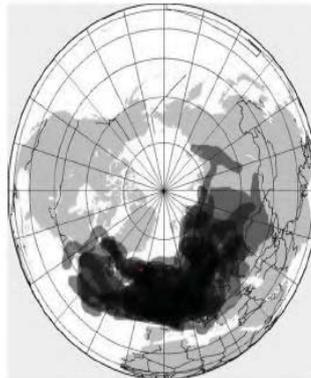
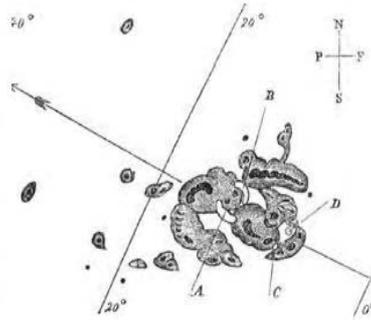


See Pescaroli and Alexander 2016, 2018

Our concept: we cannot predict everything



The challenge: “it will never happen to us”



What are HILP Events?

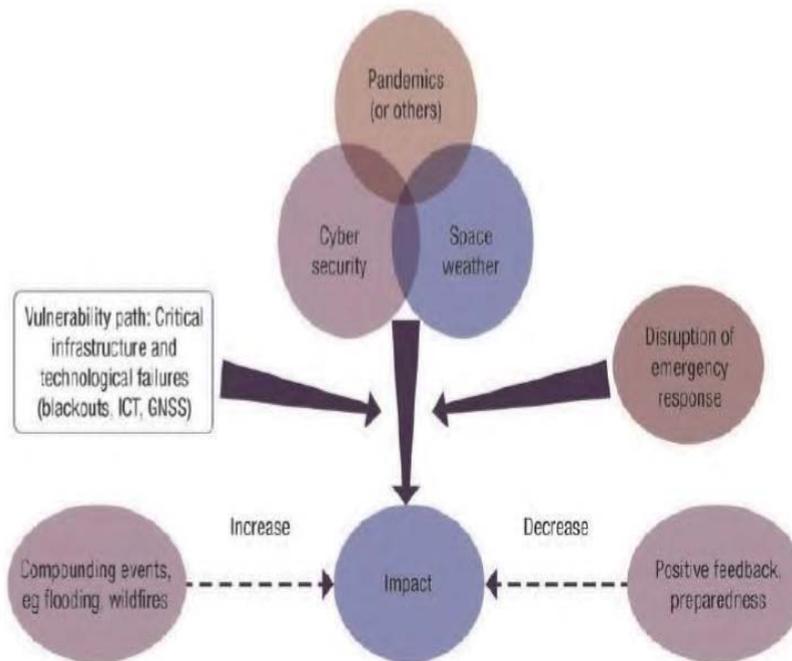
High Impact Low Probability Events (HILPs) are *rare events* which may potentially result in *catastrophic impacts* such as on people, infrastructure, utilities, critical services and wider societal function. These events are characterised by a *lack of precedence and high levels of uncertainty* in their predictability and combinations of effects, often coming as surprises or shocks. They *may not meet the defined thresholds of mitigation actions*, and will require innovative, creative approaches to raise awareness, *leverage established capabilities*, and enhance short- and long-term preparedness.

Link to the definition and taxonomy (Pescaroli et al. 2025):
www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212420925003280
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Addressing single point of failures across multiple threats (risk agnosticism)



Pescaroli et. 2016 2018, Trump et al. 2025

It's not rocket science: redundancy in both soft and hard infrastructure



See Pescaroli et al. 2022,2023, Trump et al. 2025

The role of stress testing



Practical steps for public policies

- ✓ Benchmark HILP scenarios
- ✓ Streamline a risk or threat agnostic approach
- ✓ Assure the adoption of stress testing methodology across the supply chain (third party providers)
- ✓ Increase the focus on preparedness
- ✓ Moving toward training and creativity for thinking the unthinkable.



Any questions?



References

- ✓ Pescaroli, G., McMillan, L., ... & Linkov, I. (2025). *Definitions and taxonomy for High Impact Low Probability (HILP) and outlier events*. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, 127, 105504
- ✓ Trump, B. , Mitoulis, S., ...Pescaroli, G., Pingina, E. Trump, J. & Linkov, I. (2025). *Threat-agnostic resilience: Framing and applications*. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, 124, 105535
- ✓ Pescaroli, G., Guida, K., & Alexander, (2023). *Managing systemic risk in emergency management, organizational resilience and climate change adaptation*. Disaster Prevention and Management, 32(1), 234-251
- ✓ Linkov, I., Trump, B. D., Trump, J., Pescaroli, G.,... & Panda, A. (2022). *Resilience stress testing for critical infrastructure*. International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, 82, 103323
- ✓ Pescaroli, G., Wicks, R. T., Giacomello, G., & Alexander, D. E. (2018). *Increasing resilience to cascading events: The M. OR. D. OR. scenario*. Safety science, 110, 131-140
- ✓ Pescaroli, G., & Alexander, D. (2018). *Understanding compound, interconnected, interacting, and cascading risks: a holistic framework*. Risk analysis, 38(11), 2245-2257.