



PROJECT GLOBAL SHIELD

THE SOLUTION: GLOBAL CATASTROPHIC RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2022

The United States does not have an adequate risk assessment of or an updated plan to mitigate global catastrophic and existential threats.

GLOBAL CATASTROPHIC AND EXISTENTIAL THREATS

Threats that, with varying likelihood, can produce consequences severe enough to result in significant harm or destruction of human civilization at the global scale or lead to human extinction.

Severe Global Pandemics

Asteroid and Comet Impacts

Supervolcanoes

Nuclear War / Nuclear Winter

Sudden and Severe Climate Changes

Threats Arising from the Use and Development of Emerging Technologies

The *Global Catastrophic Risk Management Act of 2022* establishes a whole-of-government process to assess the severity of catastrophic and existential risks. The government will then review the adequacy of existing **continuity of operations and continuity of government (COOP/COG)** plans and facilities based on the assessed risk. By conducting a comprehensive assessment of the risk and subsequently reviewing the adequacy (or lack thereof) of the corresponding COOP/COG plans, we believe the government will identify serious shortcomings in our national preparedness for this class of risk – the first step in mitigating such catastrophic risks to our future.

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL CATASTROPHIC RISK

This initiative calls on the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy to establish an **interagency committee on global catastrophic risk**. The committee shall include senior representatives from across the government with a variety of unique expertise on potential catastrophic threats, ranging from experts on supervolcanoes at USGS, to experts on weapons of mass destruction at the State Department, to experts on pandemics at HHS.

Department of Defense
Department of Homeland Security, FEMA
National Security Council
Office of Science and Technology Policy

ODNI
HHS, CDC
Department of Energy, NNSA
State Department

NASA
USGS
National Science Foundation
Other agencies, as needed

LEADERSHIP

The interagency committee will be co-chaired by the **Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Hemispheric Affairs** and the **Deputy Administrator of FEMA for Resilience** – two officials with existing responsibilities for catastrophic risks to the nation and for COOP/COG.

ASSESSING AND REPORTING ON THE RISK

Within a year, the interagency committee on global catastrophic risk will conduct and submit to Congress a detailed assessment of global catastrophic and existential threats. The report will help identify the **most dangerous risks in the next 30 years, both by likelihood of occurrence and potential consequences**. Further, the report will identify **all possible risks**, even if very unlikely, and identify any **obstacles to estimating the risk** more effectively. Necessary to this process is an evaluation of the effectiveness of U.S. early warning and detection systems and a forecast of how and why global catastrophic and existential risks may **increase or decrease** in the years ahead.

Such analysis is incomplete, however, without a plan of action. The report will propose improvements in the **federal government's risk assessment capabilities**, along with recommendations for **Congressional action**. The interagency committee will be aided in its efforts by **consultations with academic, private sector, and other non-governmental experts on global risk**. The committee's efforts will be transparent, as the final report will be submitted in an **unclassified form** (with a potential classified annex).

30-Year Risk: Expert estimates of cumulative global catastrophic and existential risk in the next 30 years, including separate estimates for the likelihood of occurrence and potential consequences.

Most Dangerous Risk: Expert-informed analysis of the risk of the most concerning specific global catastrophic and existential threats, including separate estimates of each threat for its likelihood of occurrence and potential consequences.

All Risks: Comprehensive list of potential catastrophic or existential threats, including those with very low likelihood.

Likelihood and Impact Assessment: Technical assessments and lay explanations of the analyzed global catastrophic and existential risks, including their qualitative character and key factors affecting their likelihood of occurrence and potential consequences.

Risk Assessment Obstacles: Explanation of factors limiting the ability of the interagency committee to assess the risk both cumulatively and for particular threats, and how those limitations may be overcome.

Early Warning and Detection Analysis: Review of the effectiveness of intelligence collection, early warning and detection systems, or other functions and programs necessary to evaluate the risk of particular catastrophic and existential threats.

REPORT ON COOP/COG PLANNING

Following the risk assessment, the co-chairs of the interagency committee on global catastrophic and existential risk shall produce a report on the adequacy of continuity of operations and continuity of government (COOP/COG) plans & facilities based on the assessed global catastrophic and existential risk. These plans and facilities were largely built with a single threat in mind — nuclear war with USSR — and have not kept pace with the full range of 21st century threats expected to be identified in the risk assessment.

