

ARPI® and ERPI Perspective – Top 10 Global ‘Vulnerabilities’ ⇔ 10 September 2026

The Australian Risk Policy Institute (ARPI®), convenor of the Global Risk Policy Network (GRPN), announces the Top 10 Global Vulnerabilities as at 10 September 2026, identified through Strategic Risk Policy® foresight and insight. ARPI® and affiliated ERPI (European Risk Policy Institute) are independent, non-political think-tanks and educators, free from external influence and jointly host the Centre for Advanced Resilience and Risk Policy Studies (CARRPS™).

ARPI®’s formation occurred as a result of the changing global environment – highlighted by the “Age of Digital Transformation and Disruption” – and the need for leaders and decision-makers to be empowered by new thinking, new approaches and new frames to ensure and enable fully informed and pre-emptive decision-making and understanding the implications of decisions and consequences of non-decisions.

The rapid speed of interconnectedness and interdependence has overtaken new thought processes. When this has combined with a failure to embrace ‘implementation analysis’ of policy and legislation – foreseeable but overlooked unintended consequences occur, often with problematical and regrettable results.

Traditional risk management processes introduced earlier this century sit behind many of the significant yet avoidable policy and decision-making failures, starting with ‘911 Terror’ and the Global Financial Crisis. Without correction failures will continue – ARPI® Perspectives at www.arpi.org.au illustrate.

ARPI® and affiliate European Risk Policy Institute (ERPI) supported by a growing Global Risk Policy Network embracing UK, USA and Indo-Pacific, with more to follow, promote planetary leadership paradigm change based on Strategic Risk Policy® Decision Pillars, namely:

1. Understanding the totality of the decision environment - not a limited, fragmented extract;
2. Changing from organisation or silo-centric to network, eco-system-centric approaches;
3. Viewing ‘risk’ as based in exposure or vulnerability and concerned with consequences;
4. Decision-making to “Protect Against Foreseeable Vulnerabilities’ - not panic risk reaction.

Strategic Risk Policy® uniquely discerns vulnerability and risk. Understanding the difference is one of today’s greatest policy challenges. Vulnerability (foresight) being defined as potentiality or possibility of strategic risk or crisis occurring – but at present with zero probability. Insight and foresight. It follows, therefore, that risk is now defined as the impact and implications of decisions or non-decisions - and is identified as the consequence of the conjunction of Vulnerability + Threat + Threat Actor. This is the planetary leadership paradigm change required to be effective, resilient and sustainable in today’s world – and avoid unexpected but foreseeable crises.

ARPI® and ERPI as leaders of the Global Risk Policy Network (GRPN) have moved from annual reviews of the Top 10 Global Vulnerabilities to include bi-annual reviews when needed, reflective of the rapidly changing world, which is subject to ‘rapid deterioration and not in the same place’ - continuing to overtake traditional, static, insular risk management processes often resulting in ineffective decision-making, unintended consequences and worst of all, are negatively anticipatory for exploitation by forces of subversion, destruction and control.

Top 10 Global ‘Vulnerabilities’ as Defined by ARPI® and ERPI as at 10 September 2026

1. **Global Polycrisis - kinetic expansion of already-active geopolitical conflicts due to systemic weak points that make societies unable to absorb or adapt to sudden geopolitical shocks** – particularly those which cascade across critical infrastructure, supply chains, information systems and governance. Protection against this Vulnerability requires primary recognition that a serious global nuclear threat arose which heightened this vulnerability.
2. **Supply Chains** - Transition to ‘global’ supply chains created a dual Vulnerability – Supply and Demand. Supply assumed unrestricted physical access to trade routes including global sea-choke points, now clinging to ancient beliefs of entitlement, hence exploitation over global good. Secondly, demand - national industries have been sacrificed in favour of cheaper imports. Both have proven false, even dangerous, to society. Geopolitical fragmentation is making global integration harder with increasing disruptions. Protection against this Vulnerability must reflect a new duality of policy approach of self-reliance and trust in a convocation of like-minded nations.
3. **Infrastructure Resilience – Exposure is now the First Principle: “It’s no longer the cost of resilience that counts but the avoided cost of failure.”** Protection against this Vulnerability requires an immediate ‘Space and Time’ re-engagement. A resilience timeframe of 1-3 years must be adopted. Strategic Risk Policy® can prioritise infrastructure attention needed. Secondly, a rapidly deployable education package if/when events still occur. Thirdly, nations must leverage global responsiveness simulations in case of ‘tomorrow’ – see ARPI® partner The Electric Infrastructure Security (EIS) Council at www.eiscouncil.org and www.ginom.ai. An urgent strategic plan of the ‘protection now’ – ‘an event has just occurred’ - and ‘responsiveness preparation.’ Aiming to reach a point of “Redundant Resilience” as quickly as possible must be the global imperative.
4. **Information Meta-Grid – Leadership and Decision-Makers failing or even refusing to change mindset acceptance that the world is now interconnected, interdependent and interactive like never before. Silo-thinking is out and replaced by network-centric awareness.** Protection against this Vulnerability requires planetary paradigm change in risk approach starting with national governments and corporates – to become network informed - to foresee earlier that what others see through multi-media channels but when it’s often too late. Then to identify vulnerabilities.
5. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integrity – Source, Truth and Governance: The Internet introduced the “Information Super-Highway” and AI Artificial Intelligence has become a boom in data speed and advantage but based on the assumption that ‘the process of human thought can be mechanised.’** AI deployment has overtaken global capability to govern its source and accuracy, creating a plethora of harms while being increasingly contested about its scope of coverage. Whether as a super brain can it ever be the equivalent of a human ‘conscious mind’. At is simplest, AI is presently unable to see the totality of a situation hence implications of thoughts and actions. Protection against this Vulnerability lies in codified *Human-Centric Intelligence* which overcomes governance deficiencies and coverage limitations. ARPI® and ERPI are addressing this as a primary CARRPS™ priority.

6. **Social Cohesion – History is an accurate guide to the breakdown of social cohesion.** The critical understanding is to discern cause and effect. Having reached the highest point of societal evolution to date, that in itself creates exposure to negative forces striving for policy subversion, a weapon of mass disruption, creating a false picture of a 'new normal'. The effect of breakdowns in social cohesion manifest in many ways including 'acceptance' known as the 'boiling frog syndrome' - defined as 'failure to notice or respond to gradual threats until they reach a critical or catastrophic point.' Also described as a negative 'Delphi Principle'. An historical measure of social incohesion is society breaking down into 'tribes.' Protection against this Vulnerability lies in prevention/correction through Leadership↔Culture: recovery includes awareness that if unchecked, it will lead to 'negative momentum' in social cohesion. Anti-semitism, for example, tragically reflected by the Bondi massacre, was a vulnerability 'not protected against', hence became a 'Wicked Problem'.
7. **Earth System Variation - Failure to recognise politico-economic capture, distortion and induced fear of variant planetary patterns and changes in earth systems** – causing declining governance e.g. false reporting and uninformed policy. Protection against this Vulnerability requires accurate and balanced information reflecting global and regional-specific strategic, scientific and policy issues and approaches. Protection against this global vulnerability requires immediate separation of civilisation-caused events and natural occurrences, which underpins the need for a comprehensive, independent, holistic study including impacts, awareness and actionable insights for implementation on a global or regional basis, as needed.
8. **Policy Implementation – Absence of 'implementation analysis' or its failure** concerning public policy development and introduction is a contemporary but growing vulnerability. It is causing unexpected and harmful outcomes – often initially invisible to the public until damage or injury has occurred. Reasons vary for its occurrence - including secrecy, disregard of any potential unintended consequences, or the greater policy purpose considered to override any unexpected outcomes. A more recent cause is the loss of *Human-Centric Intelligence* - 'corporate knowledge' – replacement of human resources with isolated AI information systems devoid of corporate memory and unable to see the 'totality of a situation.' Protection against this Vulnerability requires leadership paradigm change together with a mandated governance regime such as a requirement to publish authoritative implementation analysis.
9. **Evolution of Physical Laws ↔ Advanced Military Technology** - Just as the development of AI Artificial Intelligence has overtaken society's ability to fully understand its scope and capability and proscribe appropriate responses, two significant, inter-related and foreseeable vulnerabilities exist. Firstly, the fact that no evidence exists to say that mankind has reached the pinnacle of evolution of physical laws – think UAP Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. Secondly, the arms race has entered a new and highly consequential phase of development and deployment, both overt and covert. Protection against these Vulnerabilities requires an innovative and free-thinking futures mindset based on advanced Research and Development, including alignment and integration of evolving physical laws with time-proven traditional laws. An emerging intelligence frontier derives from ancient, Mixed-Mode Methodology – Qualitative measurement and Quantitative analytics.

10. Social Media – A global example of potential harm and social disconnection – due to the vulnerability of uncontrolled and unregulated access to and use of criminal and culture-destroying material. To protect against this Vulnerability, regulatory action must be proscriptive and not rely on prescriptive, unenforceable guidelines. Global uniformity must prevail. Qualitative value judgements are imperative: however, it creates a threat of political censorship and control. Health of users particularly vulnerable people including children (who are naturally subject to exploitation and peer pressure) demands an independent-of-government-only resilience regime.

ARPI® and ERPI publish articles related to the Top Global Vulnerabilities – and more. See www.arpi.org.au and www.risk-policy.eu plus Linked In.

Inquiries about the concept, development and application of Strategic Risk Policy® as a contemporary approach to firstly, enable informed and pre-emptive decision-making - secondly, enhance resilience of critical global infrastructure - and thirdly, develop *Human-Centric Intelligence* modules to complement AI limitations, can be made to inquiry@arpi.org.au. ARPI® and ERPI offer educational courses in Strategic Risk Policy® - a conceptual and practical progression from largely out-of-date, traditional risk management processes, which continue to fail or react in time, if at all.

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