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The last global water conference took place nearly half a century ago. Today the world faces a starkly different reality. We are woefully unprepared: much of the world's water infrastructure and policies were designed for a climate that no longer exists. The result is tragic. Billions of people all over the world, from rural farmlands to growing cities, are suffering from either too little or too much water.

Yet solutions exist. Securing water for our societies by 2030 could cost just over 1% of global GDP. The return on these investments would be immense, from growing economies to boosting farmers' crop yields to improving the lives of poor and vulnerable communities.

This must be a turning point for countries, cities, and businesses to step up and make water resilience a top priority. World Resources Institute is contributing two major commitments:

1. The Water Peace and Security Partnership will significantly scale up support to governments and private sector partners to reduce the risks of water-related conflicts.
2. The Urban Water Resilience Initiative will offer new technical assistance and financing to African cities to build water resilience, with the aim of supporting 100 cities in implementing 200 high-impact, low-carbon solutions. Already, six African cities involved have made commitments to implement over 90 water resilience actions.

We need more than incremental progress. We need a plan to fundamentally transform how we manage water. And these commitments must have teeth, with financial investments and accountability measures to back them up.

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With the stakes growing ever higher, we cannot lose sight of our vision: a future where communities are prepared for intensifying droughts and floods, where cities reliably provide clean water to their fast-growing populations, where violent conflict does not erupt due to water scarcity. It's ambitious, but with strong political will, it's achievable.