



## **European Parliament RBC working group**

### **Pledge on Business and Human Rights**

As the world's largest economy the European Union (EU) has a particular responsibility to prove leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights against harm linked to business operations.

The obligation to protect requires the EU and its Member States to prevent infringements of human rights that occur inside the EU and outside of EU territory due to the activities of business over which the EU and its Member States exercise control.

As a Member of the European Parliament, I commit to pro-actively take action with the aim of the full implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) by the EU and its Member States.

#### **In particular, I commit to take action**

- For the implementation of mandatory human rights due diligence standards as regards business operations, investments, business relations and global supply chains at the national and/or EU level;
- For a legislation at national and/or EU level introducing a corporate duty of care towards individuals and communities affected by their global operations;
- To tackle obstacles to access to remedy for victims of business-related human rights harm;
- To ensure that trade policies and agreements are not harmful to the enjoyment of human rights within and outside of the EU; namely by establishing a sanctions mechanism in all Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in EU Free Trade Agreements
- For the EU to protect human rights defenders and ensure an enabling environment;
- For a constructive engagement with the process towards the establishment of a legally binding instrument on business and human rights at the United Nations;
- To hold the EU institutions to account in case of failure to implement the UNGPs