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April 9, 2021

Michael Page  
Deputy Director, Middle East and North Africa  
Human Rights Watch  
350 Fifth Avenue, 34th floor  
New York, NY 10118-3299  
USA

Dear Mr. Page,

I am writing in response to your letter regarding Google Cloud's recent announcement about establishing a new Google Cloud Region in Saudi Arabia. We appreciated the opportunity to meet with you to share more detail on Google's long-standing commitment to human rights. As we shared during the call, the Cloud region in Saudi Arabia is of limited scope, focused on our cloud enterprise business, and unrelated to our consumer services.

Our development of new products and expansion of global operations are guided by internationally recognized human rights standards. We are committed to respecting the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its implementing treaties, as well as upholding the standards established in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and in the Global Network Initiative Principles. As part of this commitment, Google undertakes human rights due diligence when expanding operations into new locations. Consistent with our standard practices, an independent human rights assessment was conducted for the Google Cloud Region in Saudi Arabia, and Google took steps to address matters identified as part of that review. As our business in the region evolves, we will continue to assess opportunities to ensure compliance with our commitments.

Google is also committed to a process of responsible decision-making that respects the fundamental rights of users of our products and is consistent with our mission, our code of conduct, our AI principles, and our privacy principles. In addition, our [overall commitment](#) and adherence to recognized international security and privacy standards is [certified and validated](#) by independent auditors — wherever data is located. We maintain a very [clear position](#) on requests from governments for access to data.

Google Cloud continues to invest in new markets and expand our network to meet the growing demand from our enterprise customers around the world. We believe that

continuing to explore opportunities in global markets and building infrastructure to meet the needs of our customers is consistent with our commitment to create opportunity for everyone. As we explore these options, we value and take seriously our responsibility to respect human rights.

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. We look forward to continued collaboration with human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch to further this mission in a rights-respecting manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Pablo Chavez', with a stylized, cursive font.

Pablo Chavez  
Vice President,  
Google Cloud Government Affairs & Public Policy