



**For Immediate Release**  
**SQM ANNOUNCES DATE OF 2009 ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING AND  
DIVIDEND PROPOSAL**

**Santiago, Chile, April 6, 2009.-** Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) (NYSE: SQM; Santiago Stock Exchange: SQM-B, SQM-A) announced today that its Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to propose a gross dividend of US\$1.23829 per share at its 2009 annual shareholders meeting. This amount is equivalent to 65% of the Company's distributable net income for the year 2008 and is in accordance with SQM's current dividend distribution policy.

The interim dividend of US\$0.37994 per share, which was paid on November 21, 2008, will be deducted from the gross dividend of US\$1.23829 per share. Therefore, the outstanding amount to be paid is US\$0.85835 per share.

This proposal is subject to the approval of shareholders at the Company's 2009 annual meeting, which will be held in Santiago, Chile, on April 29, 2009. If approved, the dividend will be paid to shareholders of record on the fifth business day prior to the payment date, in the case of Chilean shareholders. The Company's depository bank, the Bank of New York Mellon, will inform shareholders of the record date applicable to them. The amount payable will be the Chilean peso equivalent of US\$0.85835 per share, in accordance with the "Observed Exchange Rate" as published in the Official Gazette on April 29, 2009. The payment date of this dividend for Chilean shareholders will be Monday, May 11, 2009.

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SQM is an integrated producer and distributor of specialty plant nutrients, iodine and lithium. Its products are based on the development of high quality natural resources that allow the Company to be leader in costs, supported by a specialized international network with sales in over 100 countries. SQM's development strategy aims to maintain and strengthen the Company's world leadership in its three core businesses: Specialty Plant Nutrition, Iodine and Lithium.

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Statements in this press release concerning the Company's business outlook, future economic performances, anticipated profitability, revenues, expenses, or other financial items, anticipated cost synergies and product or service line growth, together with other statements that are not historical facts, are "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined under Federal Securities Laws.

Any forward-looking statements are estimates, reflecting the best judgment of SQM based on currently available information and involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated in such statements. Risks, uncertainties, and factors that could affect the accuracy of such forward-looking statements, are identified in the public filing made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and forward-looking statements should be considered in light of those factors.

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