

# SQM

SOCIEDAD QUIMICA Y MINERA DE CHILE S.A.

## PRESS RELEASE

**Santiago, March 20, 2002.-** SQM informs that on this day it has filed an essential issue before the Securities and Insurance Superintendence. The following is a free translation of the filing:

*“We hereby inform you that on March 19, 2002, the Board of Directors of Sociedad Química y Minera de Chile S.A. (SQM) has unanimously agreed to recommend a definitive dividend payment of US\$ 0.05639 gross per share in favor of those shareholders registered in the Company’s Book of Shareholders during the fifth working day prior to the day of such payment.*

*The recommendation, once approved at the next Annual Ordinary Shareholders Meeting that will be held on April 26, 2002, will allow SQM to pay and distribute, in accordance with the corresponding Dividend Policy, an annual dividend equivalent to 50% of the distributable liquid profits obtained during the 2001 business period.*

*The pertinent amount will be paid in its equivalent in pesos, Chilean currency, based on the “Observed Dollar” rate that should be published by the Official Gazette on April 26, 2002. The above, in favor of the corresponding shareholders, personally or through a duly authorized representative, beginning on Wednesday, May 8, 2002, at 09:00 hrs.”*

SQM is an integrated producer and distributor of specialty fertilizers, industrial chemicals and iodine and lithium. Its products are based in 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 world leadership in its three main businesses: specialty fertilizers, iodine and lithium.