

## **E. Taxation**

The following discussion summarizes certain material Chilean tax and United States federal income tax consequences to beneficial owners arising from the ownership and disposition of the ADSs. The summary does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all potential Chilean tax and United States federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase, own or dispose of the ADSs and is not intended as tax advice to any particular investor. This summary does not describe any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, locality or other taxing jurisdiction other than Chile and the United States. There is currently no income tax treaty between the United States and Chile.

### **Material Tax Consequences of Owning Shares of Our Common Stock or ADSs**

#### ***Chilean Taxation***

The following is a summary of certain Chilean tax consequences of the ownership of shares of Santander-Chile's common stock or of ADSs evidenced by ADRs by Foreign Holders (as defined herein). The summary does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase, own or dispose of shares or ADSs and does not purport to deal with the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of whom may be subject to special rules. Holders of shares or ADSs are advised to consult their own tax advisors concerning the Chilean and other tax consequences of the ownership of shares or of ADSs evidenced by ADRs.

The description of Chilean tax laws set forth below is based on Chilean laws in force as of the date of this Annual Report and is subject to any changes in such laws occurring after the date of this Annual Report. These changes can be made on a retroactive basis.

For purposes of this summary, the term "Foreign Holder" means either (1) in the case of an individual, a person who is not resident or domiciled in Chile (for purposes of Chilean taxation, (a) an individual holder is resident in Chile if he or she has resided in Chile for more than six months in one calendar year, or a total of more than six months in two consecutive fiscal years and (b) an individual is domiciled in Chile if he or she resides in Chile with the actual or presumptive intent of staying in Chile); or (2) in the case of a legal entity, a legal entity that is not domiciled in Chile, unless the shares of Santander-Chile's common stock or ADSs are assigned to a branch or a permanent establishment of such entity in Chile.

#### ***Taxation of Dividends***

Cash dividends paid by Santander-Chile with respect to shares of its common stock held by a Foreign Holder, including shares represented by ADSs, will be subject to a 35% Chilean withholding tax, which is withheld and paid over by Santander-Chile (the "Withholding Tax"). If Santander-Chile has paid corporate income tax (the "First Category Tax") on the income from which the dividend is paid, a credit for the First Category Tax effectively reduces the rate of Withholding Tax. When a credit is available, the Withholding Tax is computed by applying the 35% rate to the pre-tax amount needed to fund the dividend and then subtracting from the tentative withholding tax so determined the amount of First Category Tax actually paid on the pre-tax income. For purposes of determining the rate at which First Category Tax was paid, dividends are treated as paid from Santander-Chile's oldest retained earnings.

The effective rate of Withholding Tax to be imposed on dividends paid by Santander-Chile will vary depending upon the amount of First Category Tax paid by Santander-Chile on the earnings underlying the dividends. The effective rate for the First Category Tax attributed to earnings generated during the fiscal year 2004 and onwards is 17.0%. Full applicability of the First Category Tax credit at the 17.0% rate results in an effective Withholding Tax rate of 21.7 %. Consequently, the Withholding Tax rate with respect to dividends fluctuates between 21.7% and 35.0%, depending on whether or not we are subject to the First Category Tax.

The example below illustrates the effective Chilean Withholding Tax burden on a cash dividend received by a Foreign Holder, assuming a Withholding Tax rate of 35%, an effective First Category Tax rate of 17% and a distribution of all of the net proceeds available after payment of the First Category Tax.

Taxable income	US\$ 100
First Category Tax (17% of US\$100)	(17)
Net proceeds available	83
Dividend payment	83
Withholding Tax (35% of the sum of the dividend (US\$83) and the available First Category Tax credit (US\$17))	(35)
First Category Tax credit	17
Payable Withholding Tax	(18)
Net dividend received	65 (83-18)
Effective dividend withholding tax rate	21.7% (18/83)

Dividend distributions made in kind would be subject to the same Chilean tax rules as cash dividends. Stock dividends are not subject to Chilean taxation. The distributions of preemptive rights relating to shares of common stock will not be subject to Chilean taxation.

#### *Taxation of Capital Gains*

Gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition by a Foreign Holder of ADSs (or ADRs evidencing ADSs) will not be subject to Chilean taxation, provided that such disposition occurs outside Chile or that it is performed under the rules of Title XXIV of the Chilean Securities Market Law, as amended by Law No. 19,601, dated January 18, 1999. The deposit and withdrawal of shares of common stock in exchange for ADRs will not be subject to any Chilean taxes.

Gain recognized on a sale or exchange of shares of common stock (as distinguished from sales or exchanges of ADSs representing such shares of common stock) by a Foreign Holder will be subject to both an income tax on capital gains, which is assessed at the same rate as the First Category Tax (currently imposed at a rate of 17%) and the Chilean withholding tax (the former being creditable against the latter) if (1) the Foreign Holder has held such shares of common stock for less than one year since exchanging ADSs for the shares of common stock, (2) the Foreign Holder acquired and disposed of the shares of common stock in the ordinary course of its business or as a regular trader of stock or (3) the sale is made to a company in which the Foreign Holder holds an interest. In certain other cases, gain on the disposition of shares of common stock will be subject only to the tax on capital gains (currently imposed at a rate of 17%). The sale of shares of common stock by a Foreign Holder to an individual or entity resident or domiciled in Chile is subject to a provisional withholding. Such a provisional withholding will be equal to (i) 5% of the amount, without any deduction, paid to, credited to, account for, put at the disposal of, or corresponding to, the Foreign Holder if the transaction is subject to the First Category Tax as sole tax, unless the gain subject to taxation can be determined, case in which the withholding is equal to 17% on the gain, or (ii) 20% of the amount, without any deduction, paid to, credited to, account for, put at the disposal of, or corresponding to, the Foreign Holder if the transaction is subject to the First Category Tax and the Chilean withholding tax, with a credit of the First Category Tax already paid. For income tax purposes, the capital gain shall be the difference between the sales price and the acquisition cost of the stock. The tax basis of shares of common stock received in exchange for ADSs will be the acquisition value of such shares. The valuation procedure set forth in the deposit agreement, which values shares of common stock that are being exchanged at the highest price at which they trade on the Santiago Stock Exchange on the date of the exchange, generally will determine the acquisition value for this purpose. Consequently, the conversion of ADSs into shares of common stock and sale of such shares of common stock for the value established under the deposit agreement will not generate a capital gain subject to taxation in Chile.

In the case where the sale of the shares is made on a day that is different than the date on which the exchange is recorded, capital gains subject to taxation in Chile may be generated. On October 1, 1999, the Chilean Internal Revenue Service issued Ruling No. 3708 whereby it allowed Chilean issuers of ADSs to amend the deposit agreements to which they are parties in order to include a clause that states that, in the case that the exchanged shares are sold by the ADSs' holder in a Chilean Stock Exchange, either on the same day in which the exchange is recorded in the shareholders' registry of the issuer or within the two prior business days to such date, the acquisition price of such exchanged shares shall be the price registered in the invoice issued by the stock broker that participated in the sale transaction. Consequently, because we have included this clause in the form of ADRs attached to the

deposit agreement, the capital gain that may be generated if the shares received in exchange for ADSs were sold within two days prior to the date on which the exchange is recorded will not be subject to taxation.

The distribution and exercise of preemptive rights relating to the shares of common stock will not be subject to Chilean taxation. Cash amounts received in exchange for the shares or assignment of preemptive rights relating to the shares will be subject to both the First Category Tax and the Chilean withholding tax (the former being creditable against the latter to the extent described above).

In certain cases and provided certain requirements are met, capital gains realized on the sale of actively traded stock of Chilean public companies may be exempt from Chilean income taxes. Our stock is currently considered an actively traded stock in the Santiago Stock Exchange, and Foreign Holders of the stock may qualify for an income tax exemption. Foreign Holders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors to determine whether an exemption applies to them.

#### *Other Chilean Taxes*

No Chilean inheritance, gift or succession taxes apply to the transfer or disposition of the ADSs by a Foreign Holder, but such taxes generally will apply to the transfer at death or by gift of shares of Santander-Chile's common stock by a Foreign Holder. No Chilean stamp, issue, registration or similar taxes or duties apply to Foreign Holders of shares or ADSs.

#### *Withholding Tax Certificates*

Upon request, Santander-Chile will provide to foreign holders appropriate documentation evidencing the payment of Chilean withholding taxes. For further information, the investor should contact: Robert Moreno, [rmorenoh@santander.cl](mailto:rmorenoh@santander.cl).

Dividends payable to holders of ADSs are net of foreign currency conversion expenses of the Depositary and will be subject to the Chilean withholding tax currently at the rate of 35% (subject to credits in certain cases as described above). Owners of the ADSs will not be charged any dividend remittance fees by the Depositary with respect to cash or stock dividends.

#### **U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations**

The following is a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of shares or ADSs to U.S. holder described below, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular person's decision to acquire such securities. The discussion applies only if you hold shares or ADSs as capital assets for tax purposes and it does not address special classes of holders, such as:

- certain financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- dealers and traders in securities or foreign currencies;
- persons holding shares or ADSs as part of a hedge, "straddle," conversion transaction, or integrated transaction;
- persons whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar;
- partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- persons liable for the alternative minimum tax;
- tax-exempt organizations;
- persons holding shares or ADSs that own or are deemed to own ten percent or more of our voting stock; or

- persons who acquired our ADSs or shares pursuant to the exercise of any employee stock option plan or otherwise as compensation.

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), administrative pronouncements, judicial decision and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, all as of the date hereof. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. It is also based in part on representations by the Depositary and assumes that each obligation under the Deposit Agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms. Please consult your own tax advisers concerning the U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of purchasing, owning and disposing of shares or ADSs in your particular circumstances.

If an entity that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds shares of ADSs, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Partnership holding shares of ADSs and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisers as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of the shares or ADSs.

As used herein, a “U.S. holder” is a beneficial owner of shares or ADSs that is for U.S. federal tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

In general, if you own ADSs, you will be treated as the owner of the underlying shares represented by those ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if you exchange ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom ADRs are released prior to delivery of shares to the Depositary (“pre-release”) or intermediaries in the chain of ownership between U.S. holders of ADRs may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits for holders of ADRs. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax, described below, applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate holders. Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Chilean taxes and the availability of the reduced rate for dividends received by certain non-corporate holders, each described below, could be affected by future actions that may be taken by such parties or intermediaries.

#### *Taxation of Distributions*

Distributions paid on ADSs or shares, other than certain pro rata distributions of common shares or rights, will be treated as dividends to the extent paid out of current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). Since we do not maintain calculations of our earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles, it is expected that distributions generally will be reported to U.S. holders as dividends. Subject to applicable limitations and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, under current law, certain dividends paid by “qualified foreign corporations” to certain non-corporate U.S. Holders in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2011, will be taxable at a maximum rate of 15%. A foreign corporation is treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends paid on stock which is readily tradable on a securities market in the United States, such as the NYSE where our ADSs are traded. You should consult your own tax advisers to determine whether the favorable rates may apply to dividends you receive and whether you are subject to any special rules that limit your ability to be taxed at this favorable rate. The amount of the dividend will include any amounts withheld by us or our paying agent in respect of Chilean taxes at the effective rate as described above under “– Chilean Taxation.” The amount of the dividend will be treated as foreign-source dividend income to you and will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations under the Code.

Dividends paid in Chilean pesos will be included in your income in a U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of your (or in the case of ADSs, the Depositary’s) receipt of the dividend, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into

U.S. dollars. If the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, you generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. You may have foreign currency gain or loss if you do not convert the amount of such dividend into U.S. dollars on the date of its receipt.

Subject to applicable limitations that may vary depending upon your circumstances and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, Chilean taxes withheld from cash dividends on shares or ADSs at the withholding tax rate, reduced in respect of any First Category Tax, as described above under “ –Chilean Taxation,” generally will be creditable against your U.S. federal income tax liability. Instead of claiming a credit, you may, at your election, deduct such Chilean taxes in computing your taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law. You should consult your own tax advisers to determine whether you are subject to any special rules that limit your ability to make effective use of foreign tax credits.

#### *Sale or Other Disposition of Shares or ADSs*

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, gain or loss you realize on the sale or other disposition of shares or ADSs generally will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if you held the shares or ADSs for more than one year. The amount of your gain or loss will be equal to the difference between your tax basis in the shares or ADSs disposed of and the amount realized on the disposition in each case as determined in U.S. dollars. Such gain or loss will generally be U.S. source gain or loss for foreign tax credit purposes. Consequently, you may not be able to utilize a credit for Chilean withholding taxes imposed on gain from shares or ADSs. You should consult your own tax advisers regarding the availability of foreign tax credits upon the sale or other disposition of your shares or ADSs.

#### *Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules*

Based on proposed Treasury regulations (“Proposed Regulations”), which are proposed for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1994, we believe that we were not a “Passive Foreign Investment Company” (“PFIC”) for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the year ended December 31, 2007. However, since the Proposed Regulations may not be finalized in their current form and since PFIC status depends upon the composition of a company’s income and assets and the market value of its assets (including, among others, less than 25 percent owned equity investments) from time to time, there can be no assurance that we will not be considered a PFIC for any taxable year. If we were treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which you held an ADS or a share, certain adverse tax consequences could apply to you.

If we were a PFIC for any taxable year during which you held shares or ADSs, gain recognized by you on a sale or other disposition (including certain pledges) of a share or an ADS would generally be allocated ratably over your holding period for the share or ADS. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and to any year before we became a PFIC would be taxed as ordinary income. The amount allocated to each other taxable year would be subject to tax at the highest rate in effect for individuals or corporations, as appropriate for that taxable year, and an interest charge would be imposed on the amount allocated to that taxable year. Further, any distribution in respect of shares or ADSs that exceeds 125 percent of the average of the annual distributions on shares or ADSs received by you during the preceding three years or your holding period, whichever is shorter, would be subject to taxation as described above. Certain elections may be available (including a mark-to-market election) to you that may help mitigate the adverse tax consequences. In addition, if we were to be treated as a PFIC in a taxable year in which we pay a dividend or the prior taxable year, the 15% dividend rate discussed above with respect to dividends paid to non-corporate shareholders would not apply.

#### *Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

Payment of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries generally are subject to information reporting and to backup withholding unless (i) you are a corporation or other exempt recipient or (ii), in the case of backup withholding, you provide a correct taxpayer identification number and certify that you are not subject to backup withholding.

The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to you will be allowed as a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle you to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.