Translation of Speech by Foreign Minister Mr. José Miguel Insulza

Your Excellency, Don Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, Your Majesties King Kari XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, Mr. President of the ESO Council, Mr. Director General of ESO, Senators, civil, military and church officials. Members of the Swedish delegation, Members of the ESO Council, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to represent the Chilean Government in this ceremony and to share with you my feeling of excitement and hope as we take part in this foundation ceremony of ESO’s at Cerro Paranal. This feeling is, first of all, based upon the importance of the project that we inaugurate today. The VLT/VLTI telescope already described by the President of the ESO Council and by the Director General of ESO, is not only an expression of the most modern technology ever used in astronomy. It is also an opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the Universe and thus be able to answer the questions that have occupied mankind since its origin. In this sense, over and above the significant cost entailed by the project, it will be a