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If the holder appoints a representative in Brazil to act directly in the Brazilian market to acquire preferred shares, the holder will be subject to a less favorable Brazilian tax treatment than a holder of ADSs. Regardless of registration under Resolution 2,689, residents in tax havens are subject to less favorable tax treatment than other foreign investors. See "Taxation–Brazilian Tax Considerations."

Under current Brazilian legislation, the federal government may impose temporary restrictions on remittances of foreign capital abroad in the event of a serious imbalance or an anticipated serious imbalance of Brazil's balance of payments. For approximately six months in 1989 and early 1990, the federal government froze all dividend and capital repatriations held by the Central Bank that were owed to foreign equity investors, in order to conserve Brazil's foreign currency reserves. These amounts were subsequently released in accordance with federal government directives. There can be no assurance that the federal government will not impose similar restrictions on foreign repatriations in the future.

### **E. Taxation**

The following summary contains a description of the principal Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of preferred shares or ADSs; however, it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase preferred shares or ADSs. The summary is based upon the tax laws of Brazil and regulations thereunder and on the tax laws of the United States and regulations thereunder as in effect on the date hereof, which are subject to change. **Prospective purchasers of preferred shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of preferred shares or ADSs.**

Although there is at present no income tax treaty between Brazil and the United States, the tax authorities of the two countries have had discussions that may culminate in a treaty. No assurance can be given, however, as to whether or when a treaty will enter into force or how it will affect U.S. holders of preferred shares or ADSs. Prospective holders of preferred shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of preferred shares or ADSs in their particular circumstances.

### **Brazilian Tax Considerations**

The following discussion summarizes the principal Brazilian tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of preferred shares or ADSs by a holder not deemed to be domiciled in Brazil for Brazilian tax purposes (a "non-Brazilian holder"). This discussion does not address all the Brazilian tax considerations that may be applicable to any particular non-Brazilian holder, and each non-Brazilian holder should consult its own tax advisor about the Brazilian tax consequences of investing in preferred shares or ADSs.

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

Dividends paid by us in cash or in kind from profits generated on or after January 1, 1996 (i) to the depositary in respect of preferred shares underlying ADSs or (ii) to a non-Brazilian holder in respect of preferred shares will generally not be subject to Brazilian withholding tax. We do not have any undistributed profits generated before January 1, 1996.

#### ***Distributions of Interest on Capital***

Brazilian corporations may make payments to shareholders characterized as interest on capital as an alternative form of making dividend distributions. The rate of interest may not be higher than the federal government's long-term interest rate, or the TJLP, as determined by the Central Bank from time to time (10% per annum for the three-month period beginning January 2004). The total amount distributed as interest on capital may not exceed the greater of (i) 50% of net income (before taking the distribution and any deductions for income taxes into account) for the year in respect of which the payment is made or (ii) 50% of retained earnings for the year prior to the year in respect of which the payment is made. Payments of interest on capital are decided by the shareholders on the basis of recommendations of the company's board of directors.

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Distributions of interest on capital paid to Brazilian and non-Brazilian holders of preferred shares, including payments to the depositary in respect of preferred shares underlying ADSs, are deductible by us for Brazilian corporate income tax purposes. These payments are subject to Brazilian withholding tax at the rate of 15%.

No assurance can be given that our board of directors will not recommend that future distributions of profits will be made by means of interest on capital instead of by means of dividends.

Amounts paid as interest on capital (net of applicable withholding tax) may be treated as payments in respect of the dividends we are obligated to distribute to our shareholders in accordance with our bylaws (*estatutos*) and the Brazilian Corporate Law. Distributions of interest on capital in respect of the preferred shares, including distributions to the depositary in respect of preferred shares underlying ADSs, may be converted into U.S. dollars and remitted outside of Brazil, subject to applicable exchange controls.

### ***Taxation of Gains***

Gains realized outside Brazil by a non-Brazilian holder on the disposition of ADSs or preferred shares to another non-Brazilian holder are not subject to Brazilian tax.

Gains realized by non-Brazilian holders on dispositions of preferred shares in Brazil or in transactions with Brazilian residents may be free of Brazilian tax, taxed at a rate of 20% or taxed at a rate of 15%, depending on the circumstances.

Gains on the disposition of preferred shares obtained upon cancellation of ADSs are not taxed in Brazil if the disposition is made and the proceeds are remitted abroad within five business days after cancellation, unless the investor is a resident of a jurisdiction that, under Brazilian law, is deemed to be a "tax haven" (i.e., a country that does not impose any income tax or that imposes tax at a rate of less than 20%).

Gains realized through transactions with Brazilian residents or through transactions in Brazil outside of the Brazilian stock exchanges are generally subject to tax at a rate of 15%.

Gains realized through transactions on Brazilian stock exchanges are generally subject to tax at a rate of 20%, unless the investor is entitled to tax-free treatment for the transaction under Resolution 2,689 of the CMN regulations, described immediately below.

Resolution 2,689, which as of March 31, 2000 superseded the Annex IV Regulations that previously provided tax benefits to foreign investors, extends favorable tax treatment to a non-Brazilian holder of preferred shares who has (i) appointed a representative in Brazil with power to take action relating to the investment in preferred shares, (ii) registered as a foreign investor with the CVM and (iii) registered its investment in preferred shares with the Central Bank. Under Resolution 2,689 securities held by foreign investors must be maintained under the custody of, or in deposit accounts with, financial institutions duly authorized by the Central Bank and the CVM. In addition, the trading of securities is restricted under Resolution 2,689 to transactions on Brazilian stock exchanges or qualified over-the-counter markets. Investors previously holding preferred shares under the Annex IV Regulations were required to bring their investments into conformity with Resolution 2,689 by June 30, 2000. The preferential treatment generally afforded under Resolution 2,689 and afforded to investors in ADSs is not available to residents of tax havens.

There can be no assurance that the current preferential treatment for holders of ADSs and non-Brazilian holders of preferred shares under Resolution 2,689 will be maintained.

Gain on the disposition of preferred shares is measured by the difference between the amount in Brazilian currency realized on the sale or exchange and the acquisition cost of the shares sold, measured in Brazilian currency, without any correction for inflation. The acquisition cost of shares registered as an investment with the Central Bank is calculated on the basis of the foreign currency amount registered with the Central Bank. See "—Exchange Controls—Registered Capital."

Under current law, the tax rate for transactions on a Brazilian stock exchange is 20% for transactions occurring on or after January 1, 2002. Brazil's tax treaties do not grant relief from taxes on gains realized on sales or exchanges of preferred shares.

Gains realized by a non-Brazilian holder upon the redemption of preferred shares will be treated as gains from the disposition of preferred shares to a Brazilian resident occurring off of a stock exchange and will accordingly be subject to tax at a rate of 15%.

Any exercise of preemptive rights relating to the preferred shares or ADSs will not be subject to Brazilian taxation. Gains on the sale or assignment of preemptive rights relating to the preferred shares will be treated differently for Brazilian tax purposes depending on (i) whether the sale or assignment is made by the depositary or the investor and (ii) whether the transaction takes place on a Brazilian stock exchange. Gains on sales or assignments made by the depositary on a Brazilian stock exchange are not taxed in Brazil, but gains on other sales or assignments may be subject to tax at rates up to 15%.

The deposit of preferred shares in exchange for the ADSs is not subject to Brazilian income tax if the preferred shares are registered under Resolution 2,689 and the respective holder is not in a tax haven jurisdiction. If the preferred shares are not so registered or the holder is in a tax haven jurisdiction, the deposit of preferred shares in exchange for ADSs may be subject to Brazilian capital gains tax at a rate of 15%.

The withdrawal of preferred shares in exchange for ADSs is not subject to Brazilian tax. On receipt of the underlying preferred shares, a non-Brazilian holder entitled to benefits under Resolution 2,689 will be entitled to register the U.S. dollar value of the shares with the Central Bank as described above, under "Exchange Controls-Registered Capital." If a non-Brazilian holder does not qualify under Resolution 2,689, he will be subject to the less favorable tax treatment described above in respect of exchanges of preferred shares.

#### **Other Brazilian Taxes**

There are no Brazilian inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of preferred shares or ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder except for gift and inheritance taxes levied by some states in Brazil on gifts made or inheritances bestowed by individuals or entities not resident or domiciled in Brazil or in the relevant state to individuals or entities that are resident or domiciled within that state in Brazil. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of preferred shares or ADSs.

A financial transaction tax, or the *Imposto sobre Operações Financeiras*, IOF tax may be imposed on a variety of transactions, including the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currency (e.g., for purposes of paying dividends and interest). The IOF tax rate on such conversions is currently 0%, but the minister of finance has the legal power to increase the rate to a maximum of 25%. Any increase will be applicable only prospectively.

The IOF may also be levied on transactions involving bonds or securities, or IOF/*Títulos*, even if the transactions are effected on Brazilian stock, futures or commodities exchanges. The rate of the IOF/*Títulos* with respect to preferred shares and ADSs is currently 0%. The minister of finance, however, has the legal power to increase the rate to a maximum of 1.5% of the amount of the taxed transaction per each day of the investor's holding period, but only to the extent of gain realized on the transaction and only on a prospective basis.

In addition to the IOF tax, a second, temporary tax that applies to the removal of funds from accounts at banks and other financial institutions, or the *Contribuição Provisória sobre Movimentação Financeira*, CPMF tax, will be imposed on distributions in respect of ADSs at the time these distributions are converted into U.S. dollars and remitted abroad by the custodian. The CPMF tax was to expire in December 2004, but was extended until December 31, 2007. It is currently imposed at a rate of 0.38%. This rate will continue until December 31, 2007.

## U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a description of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the preferred shares or ADSs by U.S. Holders, as defined below. This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (referred to herein as the Code), final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, administrative pronouncements and judicial interpretations thereof, all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect), and to different interpretations. 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. This discussion deals only with preferred shares and ADSs held as capital assets. It does not discuss all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder in light of the holder's particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as certain financial institutions, insurance companies, tax-exempt entities, dealers in securities or foreign currencies, partnerships and other pass-through entities, investors liable for the alternative minimum tax, persons who hold preferred shares or ADSs as part of an integrated investment (including a straddle) comprised of a preferred share or ADS and one or more other positions for tax purposes, persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar or persons who actually or constructively own (directly or indirectly) 10% or more of our voting stock. Holders of preferred shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors with regard to the application of the United States federal income tax laws to their particular situations as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any states or local or foreign taxing jurisdiction.

As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of preferred shares or ADSs that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (1) a citizen or resident of the United States, (2) a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) organized under the laws of the United States, any state or the District of Columbia, (3) an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (4) a trust (i) if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (ii) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

If a partnership holds preferred shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. A prospective investor who is a partner of a partnership holding our preferred shares or ADSs should consult its own tax advisor.

In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holders of American depositary receipts evidencing ADSs will be treated as the beneficial owners of the preferred shares represented by those ADSs. Deposits and withdrawals of preferred shares in exchange for ADSs will not result in the realization of gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

### Taxation of Dividends

Subject to the discussion under "—Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules" below, distributions (including the amount of any Brazilian taxes withheld therefrom) paid in respect of the preferred shares or ADSs, including distributions paid in the form of payments of interest on capital for Brazilian tax purposes, will constitute foreign source dividends includible as ordinary income for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent such distributions are made from our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles. Dividends in respect of ADSs paid to certain non-corporate U.S. Holders (including individuals) in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2009 may qualify for preferential rates of U.S. federal income tax as "qualified dividend income" provided that the ADSs are "readily tradable" on an established securities market in the United States and certain other requirements are met. We believe that the ADSs are currently readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. However, no assurances can be given that the ADSs will remain readily tradable. To the extent, if any, that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits as so computed, it will first reduce the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its preferred shares or ADSs to the extent thereof, and, to the extent in excess of the U.S. Holder's tax basis, will be treated as capital gain.

The amount of a distribution paid in *reais* will be measured by reference to the spot rate for converting *reais* into U.S. dollars in effect on the date the distribution is received by the depositary, or by a U.S. Holder, in the case of a holder of preferred shares. If the depositary (or U.S. Holder, in the case of a holder of preferred shares), does not convert such *reais* into U.S. dollars at the spot rate in effect on the date it receives them, it is possible that the U.S. Holder will recognize foreign currency loss or gain, which would be ordinary loss or gain, when the *reais* are converted into U.S. dollars. The amount of any distribution of property other than cash will be the fair market value of such property on the date of distribution. Dividends paid by us will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code.

Subject to certain limitations and restrictions, U.S. Holders will be entitled to a credit against their United States federal income tax liability, or a deduction in computing their U.S. federal taxable income, for Brazilian income taxes withheld by us. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is determined separately with respect to specific classes of income. For this purpose, dividends paid by us with respect to the preferred shares or ADSs will generally constitute "passive income" or, in the case of certain U.S. Holders, "financial services income." The U.S. Treasury Department has expressed concerns that parties to whom depository shares such as the ADSs are released may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by U.S. Holders of such ADSs. Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Brazilian taxes described above could be affected by future actions that may be taken by the U.S. Treasury Department.

#### ***Taxation of Capital Gains***

Subject to the discussion under "Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules" below, upon a sale or exchange of preferred shares or ADSs, a U.S. Holder will recognize capital gain or loss for United States federal income purposes equal to the difference, if any, between the amount realized on the sale or exchange and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the preferred shares or ADSs. This gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period in the preferred shares or ADSs exceeds one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code. The gain or loss generally will be treated as U.S. source income or loss. Consequently, if a Brazilian withholding tax is imposed on the sale or disposition of preferred shares or ADSs, and a U.S. Holder does not receive significant foreign source income from other sources, such U.S. Holder may not be able to derive effective United States foreign tax credit benefits in respect of such Brazilian withholding tax. If a Brazilian tax is withheld on the sale or disposition of preferred shares or ADSs, a U.S. Holder's amount realized will include the gross amount of the proceeds of such sale or disposition before deduction of the Brazilian tax. See "Brazilian Tax Considerations—Taxation of Gains", for a description of when a disposition may be subject to taxation by Brazil.

#### ***Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules***

We believe that we will not be considered a "passive foreign investment company", or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, because the determination of whether the preferred shares or ADSs constitute shares of a PFIC will be based upon the composition of our income and assets, and entities in which we hold at least a 25% interest, from time to time, there can be no assurance that the preferred shares or ADSs will not be considered shares of a PFIC for any taxable year. If we were treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held a preferred share or ADS, certain adverse consequences could apply to the U.S. Holder, including the imposition of higher amounts of tax than would otherwise apply to a U.S. Holder and additional tax form filing requirements. U.S. Holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the consequences to them if we were considered to be a PFIC, as well as the availability and advisability of making an election to avoid the adverse United States federal income tax consequences of PFIC status should we be classified as a PFIC for any taxable year. Moreover, dividends on our ADSs would no longer be "qualified dividend income" subject to preferential rates of U.S. federal income tax, as described above. Based on our operations and business plans, we do not believe that we are currently a PFIC and do not expect to become a PFIC in the foreseeable future.

#### ***Information Reporting and Backup Withholding***

Information returns may be filed with the Internal Revenue Service in connection with distributions on the preferred shares or ADSs and the proceeds from their sale or other disposition. A U.S. Holder may be subject to United States backup withholding tax on these payments if such U.S. Holder fails to provide its taxpayer identification number or comply with certain certification procedures or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against such U.S. Holder's United States federal income tax liability and may entitle such U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that the required information is timely furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.