

negotiated in the foreign exchange market, they may be strongly influenced by the Central Bank's intervention. See *Item 3. Key information – Exchange rates*.

Under Brazilian law, whenever there is a serious imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments or reasons to foresee a serious imbalance, the Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on the remittance to foreign investors of the proceeds of their investments in Brazil, and on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currencies. Such restrictions may hinder or prevent the custodian or holders who have exchanged American Depositary Shares for underlying preferred class A shares or common shares from converting distributions or the proceeds from any sale of such shares, as the case may be, into U.S. dollars and remitting such U.S. dollars abroad.

TAXATION

The following summary contains a description of the principal Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of preferred class A shares, common shares or American Depositary Shares. You should know that it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to a holder of preferred class A shares, common shares or American Depositary Shares.

Holders of preferred class A shares, common shares, or American Depositary Shares should consult their own tax advisors to discuss the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of preferred class A shares, common shares or American Depositary Shares, including, in particular, the effect of any state, local or other national tax laws.

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 result in such a treaty. We cannot predict whether or when such a treaty will enter into force or how it will affect the U.S. holders, as defined below, of preferred class A shares, common shares, or American Depositary Shares.

Brazilian tax considerations

The following discussion summarizes the principal Brazilian tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of preferred class A shares, common shares or American Depositary Shares by a holder not deemed to be domiciled in Brazil for purposes of Brazilian taxation ("non-Brazilian holder"). It is based on the tax laws of Brazil and regulations thereunder in effect on the date hereof, which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect). This discussion does not specifically address all of the Brazilian tax considerations applicable to any particular non-Brazilian holder. Therefore, each non-Brazilian holder should consult his or her own tax advisor concerning the Brazilian tax consequences of an investment in preferred class A shares, common shares, or American Depositary Shares.

Taxation of dividends. Dividends, including dividends paid in kind, paid by us from profits of periods beginning on or after January 1, 1996 (1) to the depositary in respect of the preferred class A shares or common shares underlying the American Depositary Shares or (2) to a non-Brazilian holder in respect of preferred class A shares or common shares will generally not be subject to Brazilian withholding income tax. Dividends paid from profits generated before January 1, 1996 may be subject to Brazilian withholding income tax at varying rates depending on the year the profits were generated.

Distributions of interest on shareholders' equity. Since January 1, 1996, Brazilian corporations may attribute interest on shareholders' equity as an alternative form of making dividend distributions, which they may pay in cash. They base the calculation on shareholders' equity as stated in the statutory accounting records. The interest rate applied may not exceed the TJLP as determined by the Central Bank of Brazil from time to time. Also, the amount paid may not be higher, for tax purposes, than the greater of (1) 50% of net income (after the deduction of the provision of social contribution on net profits but before taking into account such payment of interest and the provision of corporate income tax) for the period in respect of which the payment is made or (2) 50% of the sum of retained earnings and profit reserves as of the date of the beginning of the fiscal year in respect of which the payment is made.

The amount of interest attributed to shareholders is deductible for corporate income tax and social contribution on net profit purposes, as far as the limits described above are observed. Therefore, the benefit to us, as opposed to making a dividend payment, is a reduction in our corporate taxes charge equivalent to 34% of such amount. Subject to certain limitations, income tax is withheld from the shareholders on interest payments at the rate of 15%, except if the beneficiary is exempt from tax in Brazil, which payments are free of Brazilian tax, and except if the beneficiary is located in a tax haven jurisdiction, i.e., a country or location that does not impose income tax or where the maximum income tax rate is lower than 20% or where the internal legislation imposes restrictions to disclosure of shareholding composition or the ownership of the investment, ("tax haven holder"), in which case the applicable rate is 25%.

Taxation of capital gains. For purposes of Brazilian taxation, two types of non-Brazilian holders should be considered: (1) non-Brazilian holders that are not resident or domiciled in tax haven jurisdictions (as defined below), which are registered before the Central Bank of Brazil and the CVM to invest in Brazil in accordance with Resolution No. 2,689 or are holders of American Depositary Shares; and (2) other non-Brazilian holders, which include any and all non-residents in Brazil who invest in the country through any other means and all type of investors that are located in a tax haven jurisdiction (i.e., a jurisdiction that does not impose income tax or where the maximum income tax rate is lower than 20% and/or where internal legislation imposes restrictions on the disclosure of share or investment ownership),. The investors identified in item (1) are subject to a favorable tax treatment, as described below.

According to the Law No. 10,833, dated December 29, 2003, capital gains earned abroad derived from the disposition of assets located in Brazil by non-residents to other non-residents may become subject to taxation in Brazil. In this sense, upon the disposition of the preferred class A shares or of the common shares, defined as assets located in Brazil, the non-Brazilian holder may be subject to income tax on the gains assessed, following the rules described below, no matter if the transaction is conducted in Brazil or abroad, or with a Brazilian resident or not. Regarding American Depositary Shares, although we believe that the American Depositary Shares do not fall within the definition of assets located in Brazil for the purposes of this rule, considering the general and unclear scope of the rule and the lack of judicial court rulings in respect thereto, we are unable to predict whether such understanding will ultimately prevail in the courts of Brazil. As a result, gains on a disposition of American Depositary Shares by a non-Brazilian holder to a Brazilian resident, or even to a non-Brazilian resident in the event that courts determine that the American Depositary Shares would constitute assets located in Brazil, may be subject to income tax in Brazil according to the rules described ahead.

The deposit of preferred class A shares or common shares in exchange for American Depositary Shares may be subject to Brazilian income tax if the acquisition cost of the preferred class A shares or common shares is lower than (i) the average price per preferred class A share or common share on the Brazilian stock exchange in which the greatest number of such shares were sold on the day of deposit; or (ii) if no preferred class A shares or common shares were sold on that day, the average price on the Brazilian stock exchange in which the greatest number of preferred class A shares or common shares were sold in the 15 trading sessions immediately preceding such deposit. In such case, the difference between the acquisition cost and the average price of the preferred class A shares or common shares calculated as described above will be considered to be a capital gain subject to taxation. There are grounds to sustain that such taxation is not applicable in case of investors registered under the rules of Resolution No. 2,689/2000, which are not tax haven holders. The withdrawal of American Depositary Shares in exchange for preferred class A shares or common shares is not subject to Brazilian income tax as long as the applicable regulations in respect to the registration of the investment before the Brazilian Central Bank are properly complied with.

It is important to clarify that, for purposes of Brazilian taxation, the income tax rules on gains related to disposition of preferred class A shares or common shares vary depending on the domicile of the non-Brazilian holder, the form by which such non-Brazilian holder has registered its investment before the Central Bank and/or how the disposition is carried out, as described below. The gain realized as a result of a transaction on a Brazilian stock, future and commodities exchange is the difference between the amount in Brazilian currency realized on the sale or disposition and the acquisition cost, without any adjustment for inflation, of the shares sold.

Gains assessed on the disposition of the preferred class A shares or common shares carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange (which includes the transactions carried out on the organized over-the-counter market) are:

- exempt from income tax when assessed by a non-Brazilian holder that (i) has registered its investment in Brazil before the Brazilian Central Bank under the rules of Resolution No. 2,689/2000 (“2,689 holder”) and (ii) is not a tax haven holder; or
- subject to income tax at a rate of 15% in any other case, including the gains assessed by a non-Brazilian holder that (i) is not a 2,689 holder or (ii) is a tax haven holder. In these cases, a withholding income tax at a rate of 0.005% of the sale value shall be levied on the transaction and can be offset with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

Any other gains assessed on the disposition of the preferred class A shares or of the common shares that are not carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange are subject to income tax at a rate of 15%, except for tax haven holder which, in this case, is subject to income tax at a rate of 25%. In case these gains are related to transactions conducted on the Brazilian non-organized over-the-counter market, with brokerage, a withholding income tax at a rate 0.005% of the sale value shall also be levied on the transaction and can be offset with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain. There can be no assurance that the current favorable treatment of 2,689 holders will continue in the future.

In the case of a redemption of preferred class A shares, common shares, or the American Depositary Shares or a capital reduction by a Brazilian corporation, the positive difference between the amount received by the non-Brazilian holder and the acquisition cost of the preferred class A shares, common shares or the American Depositary Shares redeemed is treated as capital gain derived from the sale or exchange of shares not carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange market and is therefore subject to income tax at the rate of 15%, or 25%, as the case may be.

Any exercise of preemptive rights relating to the preferred class A shares or common shares will not be subject to Brazilian taxation. Any gain on the transaction will be subject to Brazilian income taxation according to the same rules applicable to the sale or disposition of preferred class A shares or common shares.

Other Brazilian taxes. There are no Brazilian inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of preferred class A shares or common shares or American Depositary Shares by a non-Brazilian holder, except for gift and inheritance taxes which are levied by some states of Brazil on gifts made or inheritances bestowed non-Brazilian holder to individuals or entities resident or domiciled within such states in Brazil. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of preferred class A shares or common shares or American Depositary Shares.

Brazilian law imposes a Tax on Foreign Exchange Transactions, (the “IOF/Exchange Tax”) on the conversion of *reais* into foreign currency and on the conversion of the foreign currency to *reais*. Although the IOF/Exchange Tax rate is currently 0% with some few specific exceptions, the Minister of Finance has the legal power to increase the rate to a maximum of 25%, but only in relation to transactions occurred after the relevant ruling (i.e. not on a retroactive basis).

Brazilian law imposes a Tax on Transactions Involving Bonds or Securities (the “IOF/Bonds Tax”), due on transactions involving bonds and securities, including those carried out on the Brazilian stock, futures or commodities exchange. The rate of the IOF/Bonds Tax with respect to preferred class A shares or common shares or American Depositary Shares is currently 0%. The Minister of Finance, however, has the legal power to increase the rate to a maximum of 1.5% per day. Any such increase will be applicable only prospectively.

In addition, as a general rule, transactions carried out in Brazil that result in the transfer of *reais* from an account maintained with a Brazilian financial institution are subject to the Temporary Contribution on Financial Transactions (“CPMF Tax”), at the rate of 0.38%. Currently, the funds transferred for the acquisition of preferred class A shares and common shares on Brazilian stock exchanges and the remittance abroad of the proceeds earned from the disposition of shares in Brazil by means of a currency exchange transaction are exempt of the CPMF Tax. In addition to that, according to Law No. 11,312, of June 27, 2006, the CPMF rate is reduced to

zero on withdrawals from bank accounts used to buy common shares in a public offering, provided the public offering is registered with the CVM and that the issuer is listed in a Brazilian stock exchange. The CPMF Tax will be in effect until December 31, 2007. However, it may be extended. When applicable, the CPMF Tax must be withheld from the amounts transferred from such account and must be collected in favor of the Brazilian government by the financial institution that carries out the relevant financial transaction.

U.S. federal income tax considerations

This summary does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax consequences of the acquisition, holding or disposition of the preferred class A shares or common shares or American Depositary Shares. This summary applies to U.S. holders, as defined below, who hold their preferred class A shares or common shares or American Depositary Shares as capital assets and does not apply to special classes of holders, such as:

- certain financial institutions,
- insurance companies,
- dealers in securities or foreign currencies,
- tax-exempt organizations,
- securities traders who elect to account for their investment in preferred class A shares or common shares or American Depositary Shares on a mark-to-market basis,
- persons holding preferred class A shares, common shares or American Depositary Shares as part of hedge, straddle, conversion or other integrated financial transaction for tax purposes,
- holders whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar,
- partnerships or other pass-through entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes,
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, or
- persons owning, actually or constructively, 10% or more of our voting shares.

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended to the date hereof, administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury Regulations, changes to any of which may affect the tax consequences described herein.

HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR 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 STATE, LOCAL OR NON-U.S. TAXING JURISDICTION.

This discussion is also based, in part, on representations of the depositary and the assumption that each obligation in the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms.

As used herein, the term “United States holder” means a beneficial owner of preferred class A shares, common shares, or American Depositary Shares that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident alien individual of the United States,
- a corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof, or
- otherwise subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net income basis with respect to the preferred class A shares, common shares, or American Depositary Shares.

The term United States holder also includes certain former citizens of the United States.

In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holders of American depositary receipts evidencing American Depositary Shares will be treated as the beneficial owners of the preferred class A shares or

common shares represented by those American Depositary Shares. Deposits and withdrawals of preferred class A shares or common shares by holders in exchange for American Depositary Shares will not result in the realization of gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Taxation of dividends. Distributions paid on American Depositary Shares, preferred class A shares or common shares, including distributions paid in the form of payments of interest on capital for Brazilian tax purposes, out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for U.S. federal tax purposes, before reduction for any Brazilian income tax withheld by us, will be taxable to you as foreign source dividend income and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction allowed to corporations.

You will be required to include dividends paid in *reais* in income in an amount equal to their U.S. dollar value calculated by reference to an exchange rate in effect on the date such distribution is received by the depositary, or by a United States holder in the case of a holder of common shares or preferred class A shares. If the depositary, or United States holder in the case of a holder of common or preferred class A shares, does not convert such *reais* into U.S. dollars 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. Dividends paid by us will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code. If you hold American Depositary Shares, you will be considered to receive a dividend when the dividend is received by the depositary.

Subject to certain exceptions for short-term and hedged positions, the U.S. dollar amount of dividends received by an individual prior to January 1, 2011 with respect to the American Depositary Shares will be subject to taxation at a maximum rate of 15% if the dividends are “qualified dividends.” Dividends paid on the American Depositary Shares will be treated as qualified dividends if (i) the American Depositary Shares are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States and (ii) the Company was not, in the year prior to the year in which the dividend was paid, and is not, in the year in which the dividend is paid, a passive foreign investment company (“PFIC”). The American Depositary Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and will qualify as readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States so long as they are so listed. Based on CVRD’s audited financial statements and relevant market and shareholder data, CVRD believes that it was not treated as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes with respect to its 2005 or 2006 taxable year. In addition, based on CVRD’s audited financial statements and its current expectations regarding the value and nature of its assets, the sources and nature of its income, and relevant market and shareholder data, we do not anticipate becoming a PFIC for its 2007 taxable year.

Based on existing guidance, it is not entirely clear whether dividends received with respect to the preferred class A shares and common shares will be treated as qualified dividends, because the preferred class A shares and common shares are not themselves listed on a U.S. exchange. In addition, the U.S. Treasury has announced its intention to promulgate rules pursuant to which holders of American Depositary Shares, preferred class A shares or common stock and intermediaries through whom such securities are held will be permitted to rely on certifications from issuers to establish that dividends are treated as qualified dividends. Because such procedures have not yet been issued, it is not clear whether we will be able to comply with them. Holders of American Depositary Shares, preferred class A shares and common shares should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of the reduced dividend tax rate in the light of their own particular circumstances.

Subject to generally applicable limitations and restrictions, you will be entitled to a credit against your United States federal income tax liability, or a deduction in computing your U.S. federal taxable income, for Brazilian income taxes withheld by us. You must satisfy minimum holding period requirements to be eligible to claim a foreign tax credit for Brazilian taxes withheld on dividends. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately for specific classes of income. For this purpose dividends paid by us on our shares will generally constitute “passive income” (or, for some holders, “financial services income”). Foreign tax credits may not be allowed for withholding taxes imposed in respect of certain short-term or hedged positions in securities or in respect of arrangements in which a United States holder’s expected economic profit is insubstantial. United States holders should consult their own tax advisors concerning the implications of these rules in light of their particular circumstances.