

The right to convert dividend payments and proceeds from the sale of our shares into foreign currency and to remit such amounts outside Brazil is subject to restrictions under foreign investment legislation which generally requires, among other things, that the relevant investment be registered with the Central Bank and/or the CVM, as the case may be. A foreign investor holder of shares may experience delays in obtaining a foreign investor registration, which may delay remittances outside Brazil and adversely affect the amount, in U.S. dollars, received by the foreign investor holder.

We have obtained a certificate of registration in the name of The Bank of New York, the depositary. Pursuant to this certificate, the custodian and the depositary are able to convert dividends and other distributions with respect to the shares represented by ADSs into foreign currency and to remit the proceeds outside Brazil. If a holder exchanges ADSs for shares, such holder must seek to register its investment directly with the Central Bank. Unless the holder has registered its investment with the Central Bank, such holder may not convert into foreign currency and remit outside Brazil the proceeds from the disposition of, or distributions with respect to, such shares. Such holder generally will be subject to less favorable Brazilian tax treatment than a holder of ADSs.

As from 2005, the National Monetary Council enacted new regulations allowing, subject to certain procedures and specific regulatory provisions, the purchase and sale of foreign currency and the international transfer of *Reais* by a person or legal entity, without limitation of the amount involved, provided that the transaction is legal and has economic grounds (as evidenced by documents presented by the Brazilian person or legal entity to the financial institution executing the purchase and sale of foreign currency or the international transfer of *Reais*).

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 restriction on the remittance of foreign currency abroad and on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currencies. Such restrictions may hinder or prevent the custodian or holders who have exchanged ADSs for underlying 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.

E. Taxation

This description does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to any particular investor, including tax considerations that arise from rules of general application to all taxpayers or to certain classes of investors or that are generally assumed to be known by investors.

This summary is based upon tax laws of Brazil and the United States as of the date of this annual report, which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, and to differing interpretations. Investors who hold our shares and ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the Brazilian, U.S. or other tax considerations relating to the ownership and disposition of shares or ADSs, including, in particular, the effect of any non-U.S., state or local tax laws.

The tax considerations described below do not take into account the effects of a possible future bilateral income tax treaty between Brazil and the United States. We cannot assure you as to whether or when an income tax treaty will enter into force or how it will affect U.S. Holders of our shares or ADSs.

This summary does not address any tax issues that affect solely the Company, such as deductibility of expenses.

Brazilian Tax Consequences

General. The following discussion summarizes the main Brazilian tax considerations relating to the ownership and disposal of our shares or ADSs, as the case may be, by a holder that is not domiciled in Brazil for purposes of Brazilian taxation and, in the case of shares, has registered its investment in such securities with the Central Bank as a direct investment (in each case, a "Non-Brazilian Holder"). The following discussion does not 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 advisors concerning the Brazilian tax considerations relating to an investment in our shares or ADSs.

Law No. 12,973 enacted on May 13, 2014 established new rules regarding the withholding tax exemption available on the payment of dividends and interest on capital. The legislation had no material impact, as foreseen by the tax consultants in the 20-F form in the previous year.

Taxation of dividends. Dividends paid by us, including stock dividends and other dividends paid in property, to the depositary in respect of the shares, or to a Non-Brazilian Holder in respect of shares, are currently exempted from withholding tax in Brazil to the extent that the dividends are paid out of profits as of January 1, 1996. Dividends relating to profits generated prior to January 1, 1996 may be subject to Brazilian withholding income tax at varying rates, depending on the year the profits were generated.

Interpretation of the Discussion on the Definition of “Favorable Tax Jurisdiction”. On June 4, 2010, Brazilian tax authorities enacted Normative Instruction 1,037 listing (i) the countries and jurisdictions considered as favorable tax jurisdiction or where local legislation does not allow access to information related to the shareholding composition of legal entities to their ownership or to the identity of the effective beneficiary of the income attributed to non-residents, or “tax haven” jurisdictions, and (ii) the privileged tax regimes, whose definition is provided by Law No. 11,727, dated as of June 23, 2008. Although we believe that the best interpretation of the current tax legislation could lead to the conclusion that the above mentioned “privileged tax regime” concept should apply solely for purposes of Brazilian transfer pricing, thin capitalization and controlled foreign company rules, we cannot assure you whether subsequent legislation or interpretations by the Brazilian tax authorities regarding the definition of a “privileged tax regime” provided by Law No. 11,727/08 will also apply to a Non-Brazilian Holder on payments potentially made by a Brazilian source.

Moreover, on November 28, 2014, due to the enactment of Ordinance No. 488, the definition of a favorable tax jurisdiction, for the purposes described above, was changed from jurisdictions where there is no income tax, or the income tax applicable rate is inferior to 20%, to jurisdictions where there is no income tax, or the income tax applicable rate is inferior to 17% (if the country is aligned with the international standards of fiscal transparency defined by Brazilian legislation).

We recommend prospective investors consult their own tax advisors from time to time to verify any possible tax consequences arising of Normative Ruling No. 1,037/10 and Law No. 11,727/08. If the Brazilian tax authorities determine that the concept of “privileged tax regime” provided by Law No. 11,727/08 will also apply to a Non-Resident Holder on payments potentially made by a Brazilian source the withholding income tax applicable to such payments could be assessed at a rate up to 25%.

Payments of interest on capital. Law No. 9,249, dated as of December 26, 1995, permits Brazilian corporations to make distributions to shareholders of interest on capital, or interest attributed to shareholders’ equity.

These distributions may be paid in cash and such payments represent a deductible expense from the payer’s corporate income tax and social contribution tax basis. This interest is limited to the daily pro rata variation of the Federal Government’s long-term interest rate, as determined by the Central Bank from time to time, and cannot exceed the greater of:

- 50% of net income (after the social contribution on net profits and before the provision for corporate income tax, and the amounts attributable to shareholders as interest on net equity) for the fiscal year; or
- 50% of the sum of retained profits and profits reserves.

Any payment of interest on capital to shareholders (including holders of ADSs in respect of shares) is subject to a withholding income tax at a rate of 15%, or 25% if the Non-Brazilian Holder is domiciled in a “tax haven” jurisdiction (“Tax Haven Holder”). These payments may be included, net of withholding income taxes, as part of any mandatory dividend.

Under the Decree 8,426 of 2014 the payment of interest on capital are also subjected to PIS and COFINS at a rate of 9.25%.

To the extent that payments of interest on capital are included as part of a mandatory dividend, we are required to distribute an additional amount to ensure that the net amount received by shareholders, after payment of the applicable withholding income tax, is at least equal to the mandatory dividend.

Distributions of interest on net equity to foreign holders may be converted into U.S. dollars and remitted outside Brazil, subject to applicable exchange controls, to the extent that the investment is registered with the Central Bank.

We cannot assure you if our Board of Directors will determine that future distributions should be made by means of dividends or interest on capital.

Taxation of gains. According to Law No. 10,833, dated as of December 29, 2003, the gains recognized on a disposal of assets located in Brazil, such as our shares, by a Non-Brazilian Holder, are subject to withholding income tax in Brazil. This rule is applicable regardless of whether the disposal is conducted in Brazil or abroad and/or if the disposal is or is not made to an individual or entity resident or domiciled in Brazil.

As a general rule, capital gains realized as a result of a disposal transaction are the positive difference between the amount realized on the disposal of the shares and the respective acquisition cost.

Capital gains realized by Non-Brazilian Holders on the disposal of shares sold on the Brazilian stock exchange (which includes the transactions carried out on the organized over-the-counter market):

- are subject to the withholding income tax at a zero percent rate when realized by a Non-Brazilian Holder that (i) has registered its investment in Brazil before the Central Bank under the rules of the Brazilian Monetary Counsel (“Registered Holder”) and (ii) is not a Tax Haven Holder; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% with respect to gains realized by a Non-Brazilian Holder that is not a Registered Holder (including a Non-Brazilian Holder who qualifies under Law No. 4,131/62) and gains earned by Tax Haven Holders that are Registered Holders. In this case, a withholding income tax of 0.005% shall be applicable and can be offset against any income tax due on the capital gain.

Any other gains realized on the disposal of shares that are sold on the Brazilian stock exchange or on the organized over-the-counter market:

- are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% when realized by any Non-Brazilian Holder that is not a Tax Haven Holder, no matter if a Registered Holder or not; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 25% when realized by a Tax Haven Holder, no matter if a Registered Holder or not.

In the cases above, if the gains are related to transactions conducted on the Brazilian non-organized over-the-counter market with intermediation, the withholding income tax of 0.005% shall also be applicable on the gross proceeds and can be offset against any income tax due on the capital gain.

Any exercise of preemptive rights relating to shares will not be subject to Brazilian income tax. Gains realized by a Non-Brazilian Holder on the disposal of preemptive rights will be subject to Brazilian income tax according to the same rules applicable to disposal of shares.

There can be no assurance that the current favorable tax treatment of Registered Holders will continue in the future.

Furthermore, according to the general rules set forth in Law No. 13,259/2016, any other gains on the disposal of shares (out of the Brazilian stock exchange and qualified under Law No. 4131/62) are subject to income tax at a progressive rate from 15% to 22.5% or 25% if the resident is located in a low-tax jurisdiction or Tax Heaven.

Sale of ADS and shares by non-Brazilian Holders to other non-residents in Brazil

Pursuant to Section 26 of Law No. 10,833, published on December 29, 2003, the sale of property located in Brazil involving non-resident investors is subject to Brazilian income tax as of February 1, 2004. Our understanding is that ADSs do not qualify as property located in Brazil and, thus, should not be subject to the Brazilian withholding tax. Insofar as the regulatory norm referred to in Section 26 is generic and since, at the present time, no definitive jurisprudence provided by Brazilian Superior Courts has been established with respect to this matter, we are unable to assure the final outcome of such discussion.

Gains on the exchange of ADS for shares

Although there is no clear regulatory guidance, the exchange of ADSs for shares should not be subject to Brazilian income tax. Non-Brazilian Holders may exchange their ADSs for the underlying shares, sell the shares on a Brazilian stock exchange and remit abroad the proceeds of the sale within five business days from the date of exchange (in reliance on the depositary's electronic registration). For further information, see "Item 10. Additional Information – Taxation – Brazilian Tax Consequences – Taxation of Bonds and Securities Transactions (IOF/Bonds)." Our understanding is that the exchange of ADSs for the underlying shares and sale of shares within the period mentioned above by a Non-Brazilian Holder that (i) is a Registered Holder and (ii) is not a Tax Haven Holder, should not be subject to the withholding income tax.

Upon receipt of the underlying shares in exchange for ADSs, Non-Brazilian Holders may also elect to register with the Central Bank the U.S. dollar value of such shares as a foreign portfolio investment under the rules of the Brazilian Monetary Counsel, which will entitle them to the tax treatment referred above in connection with Registered Holders.

Alternatively, the Non-Brazilian Holder is also entitled to register with the Central Bank the U.S. dollar value of such shares as a foreign direct investment under Law No. 4,131/62, in which case the respective sale would be subject to the tax treatment of Non-Brazilian Holders that are not Registered Holders.

Gains on the exchange of shares for ADS

The deposit of shares in exchange for the ADSs may be subject to Brazilian income tax on capital gains if the amount previously registered with the Central Bank as a foreign investment in shares (direct investment registered under Law No. 4,131/62) or, in the case of Registered Holders, the acquisition cost of the shares, as the case may be, is lower than:

- the average price per share on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of such shares were sold on the day of the deposit; or
- if no shares were sold on that day, the average price on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of shares were sold during the 15 preceding trading sessions.

The difference between the amount previously registered, or the acquisition cost, as the case may be, and the average price of the shares, calculated as set forth above, is considered a capital gain subject to income tax at a rate of 15%, or 25% for Tax Haven Holders.

Taxation of Foreign Exchange Transactions (IOF/Exchange). IOF/Exchange is imposed on the conversion of *Reais* into foreign currency and on the conversion of foreign currency into *Reais*. In the case of the settlement of foreign exchange transactions for the flow of capital into the country, made by foreign investors, for transactions in the financial and capital markets, the applicable rate is 0%. The Brazilian Federal Government is permitted to increase the rate at any time, up to 25%. However, any increase in rates only applies to future transactions.

Taxation of Bonds and Securities Transactions: (IOF/Bonds). Law No. 8,894, dated as of June 21, 1994, created the IOF/Bonds, which may be imposed on any transaction involving bonds and securities, even if the transaction includes Brazilian stock, futures or commodities exchange. The Federal Supreme Court of Brazil decided that the transfer of shares shall be taxed by IOF/Bonds. The current rate of IOF/Bonds with respect to transactions of shares is 0%. Regarding the ADSs, under the Decree No. 8,165, from December 23, 2013 which amended the Decree No. 6,306, from December 14, 2007, the IOF/Bonds rate applicable to the transfer of shares listed on the Brazilian stock exchange, with the specific purpose of guaranteeing the issuance of depositary receipts in the foreign market, is currently 0%. The Brazilian government may increase the rate up to 1.5% per day during the terms of the securities, but only with respect to future transactions relating to shares or ADSs.

Other Brazilian Taxes. Some Brazilian states impose gift and inheritance tax on gifts or bequests made by individuals or entities not domiciled or residing in Brazil to individuals or entities domiciled or residing within such states. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of shares or ADSs.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a discussion of U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the ownership and disposition of our shares or ADSs, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to U.S. Holders of our shares or ADSs. The discussion applies only to a U.S. Holder that holds our shares or ADSs as capital assets (generally, for investment purposes) for U.S. federal income tax purposes and does not address all the U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to a holder in light of its particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as dealers and traders in securities or currencies, financial institutions, insurance companies, tax-exempt entities, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, persons that own, or have owned directly, indirectly or constructively, 10% or more of our voting shares for U.S. federal income tax purposes, persons holding our shares or ADSs as part of a hedging transaction, wash sale, straddle, conversion transaction or other integrated transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, persons entering into a “constructive sale” with respect to our shares or ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes, persons that have a functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes other than the U.S. dollar, certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States, persons who acquired our shares or ADSs pursuant to the exercise of any employee stock option or otherwise as compensation.

Moreover, this discussion does not address the U.S. federal estate and gift tax, Medicare contribution or alternative minimum tax considerations relating to the acquisition, ownership or disposition of our shares or ADSs. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors with respect to the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax considerations relating to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our shares or ADSs.

This discussion is based on the Code, administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed U.S. Treasury regulations, in each case as in effect and available on the date hereof. All of the foregoing are subject to change (possibly on a retroactive basis), or differing interpretations, which could affect the U.S. federal income tax considerations described herein. There can be no assurance that the IRS or a court will not take a contrary position with respect to any U.S. federal income tax considerations described below. In addition, this discussion assumes that each obligation provided for in or otherwise contemplated by the Deposit Agreement and any other related document will be performed in accordance with its terms.

For purposes of this discussion, a “U.S. Holder” is a beneficial owner of our shares or ADSs that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes (i) a citizen or individual resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (iv) a trust, (1) if such trust has validly elected to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or (2) if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of the substantial decisions of such trust.

If a partnership, or any other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal tax income tax purposes, holds shares or ADSs, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner in such partnership will generally depend on the status of the partner and on the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding our shares or ADSs and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of acquiring, owning and disposing of our shares or ADSs.

Ownership of ADSs in general

In general, U.S. Holders of ADSs will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as owners of the shares underlying the ADSs. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if a U.S. Holder exchanges ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs or exchanges the underlying shares represented by those ADSs for ADSs.

Taxation of distributions

Subject to the discussion below under “– Passive foreign investment company”, the gross amount of any distributions made to a U.S. Holder on our shares or ADSs, before reduction for any Brazilian taxes, including withholding taxes attributable to interest on equity, will be includable as ordinary dividend income on the day on which the dividends are actually or constructively received by a U.S. Holder to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A distribution in excess of our current or accumulated earnings and profits will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder’s adjusted basis in our shares or ADSs and as a capital gain to the extent it exceeds the U.S. Holder’s basis. We do not maintain calculations of our earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles. Therefore, U.S. Holders should expect that distributions by us will generally be treated as dividends to U.S. Holders for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

A non-corporate U.S. Holder will be subject to tax at the lower capital gain tax rate applicable to “qualified dividend income”, provided that certain conditions are satisfied, including that (1) our shares or ADSs, as applicable, are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States, (2) we are neither a PFIC nor treated as such with respect to a U.S. Holder (as discussed below) for the taxable year in which the dividend was paid and the preceding taxable year, and (3) certain holding period requirements are met. Although no assurance may be given, we believe that our ADSs are readily tradable on the New York Stock Exchange, which is an established securities market in the United States. There can be no assurance, however, that our ADSs will be considered readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States in later years. Because we do not expect that our shares will be listed on an established securities market in the United States, we do not expect that dividends we pay on our shares will meet the conditions required for the reduced tax rate.

Dividends paid to U.S. Holders in *Reais* will be includable in income in a U.S. dollar amount based on the exchange rate in effect on the date of actual or constructive receipt whether or not converted into U.S. dollars at that time. If dividends received in *Reais* are converted into U.S. dollars on the day they are actually or constructively received, the U.S. Holder will generally not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. Assuming the payment is not converted at that time, the U.S. Holder will have a tax basis in *Reais* equal to that U.S. dollar amount, which will be used to measure gain or loss from subsequent changes in exchange rates. Any gain or loss that a U.S. Holder recognizes on a subsequent conversion of *Reais* into U.S. dollars (or other disposition) will generally be U.S. source ordinary income or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

Dividends on our shares or ADSs received by a U.S. Holder will generally be treated as foreign source income and will generally constitute passive category income for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. Subject to certain conditions and limitations under U.S. federal income tax law concerning credits or deductions for non-U.S. taxes and certain exceptions for short-term and hedged positions, a Brazilian withholding tax imposed on dividends would be treated as a foreign income tax eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability (or at a U.S. Holder’s election may be deducted in computing taxable income if the U.S. Holder has elected to deduct all foreign income taxes for the taxable year). The rules with respect to foreign tax credits are complex and U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

Taxation of sale, exchange or other disposition of shares or ADSs

Subject to the discussion below under “– Passive foreign investment company”, a U.S. Holder will generally recognize gain or loss on the sale, exchange or other disposition of a share or ADS in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized (including the gross amount of the proceeds before the reduction of any Brazilian tax) on such sale, exchange or other disposition and the U.S. Holder’s adjusted tax basis in such share or ADS. Subject to the discussion below under “– Passive foreign investment company”, gain or loss on the sale, exchange or other disposition of a share or ADS will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder held such share or ADS for more than one year. Gain or loss recognized by a U.S. Holder will generally be treated as U.S. source gain or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes, as the case may be. An individual U.S. Holder may be entitled to preferential rates of taxation for net long-term capital gains; however, the deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

A U.S. Holder's initial tax basis of our shares or ADSs will be the U.S. dollar value of the purchase price determined on the date of purchase. If our shares or ADSs are treated as traded on an "established securities market," a cash basis U.S. Holder (or, if it elects, an accrual basis U.S. Holder) will determine the U.S. dollar value of the cost of such shares or ADSs by translating the amount paid at the spot rate of exchange on the settlement date of the purchase. The conversion of U.S. dollars to *Reais* and the immediate use of that currency to purchase shares or ADSs will generally not result in taxable gain or loss for a U.S. Holder.

A U.S. Holder that receives *Reais* upon a sale, exchange or other disposition of our shares or ADSs will realize an amount equal to the U.S. dollar value of the *Reais* on the date of sale, exchange, or other disposition. If our shares or ADSs are treated as traded on an "established securities market," a cash basis U.S. Holder (or, if it elects, an accrual basis U.S. Holder) will determine the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized by translating the amount received at the spot rate of exchange on the settlement date of the sale, exchange or other disposition. A U.S. Holder will have a tax basis in the *Reais* received equal to that U.S. dollar amount. Any gain or loss realized by a U.S. Holder on a subsequent conversion of *Reais* into U.S. dollars (or other disposition) will generally be U.S. source ordinary income or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

If any gain from the sale, exchange or other disposition of our shares or ADSs is subject to Brazilian tax, U.S. Holders may not be able to credit such taxes against their U.S. federal income tax liability under the U.S. foreign tax credit limitations of the Code since such gain will generally be U.S. source income, unless such tax can be credited (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income treated as derived from foreign sources. Alternatively, the U.S. Holder may take a deduction for the Brazilian income tax if such holder does not take a credit for any foreign income tax during the taxable year. The rules with respect to foreign tax credits are complex and U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

Passive foreign investment company

In general, certain adverse consequences could apply to a U.S. Holder if we are treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which the U.S. Holder holds our shares or ADSs. A non-U.S. corporation will be classified as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes in any taxable year in which, after applying certain look-through rules, either (i) at least 75 percent of its gross income consists of "passive income", such as dividends, interest, rents, royalties and certain gains, or (ii) at least 50 percent of the average quarterly value of its gross assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income.

We must make a separate determination each year as to whether we are a PFIC. Based on a review of our gross income and assets, the manner in which we currently operate our business, the current market price of our shares, and the current interpretation of the PFIC provisions in the Code, we believe that we were not a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the 2016 taxable year. However, the determination as to whether we are a PFIC for any taxable year is based on the application of complex U.S. federal income tax rules, which are subject to differing interpretations, depends upon the composition of a company's income and assets and the market value of its assets from time to time, and is not made until after the end of a taxable year. Consequently, there can be no assurance that we will not be considered a PFIC for the current taxable year or any subsequent taxable year.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder holds our shares or ADSs, a U.S. Holder of our shares or ADSs may be subject to imputed interest charges and other generally adverse tax consequences with respect to any gain from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of, and certain "excess distributions" with respect to, our shares or ADSs. Distributions received in a taxable year that are greater than 125 percent of the average annual distributions received during the shorter of (i) the three preceding taxable years or (ii) a U.S. Holder's holding period for the shares or ADSs will be treated as "excess distributions". Under these special tax rules: (A) any excess distributions or gain will be allocated ratably to each day in the U.S. Holder's holding period for the shares or ADSs, (B) the amount allocated to the taxable year of disposition, and any taxable year prior to the first taxable year in which we are a PFIC, will be treated as ordinary income, and (C) the amount allocated to each other taxable years that we were a PFIC will be subject to tax at the highest tax rate applicable to ordinary income in effect for such taxpayer for each such earlier taxable year and the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed on the resulting tax attributable to each such year.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder holds our shares or ADSs and any of our non-U.S. subsidiaries is also a PFIC, such U.S. Holder would be treated as owning a proportionate amount (by value) of the shares of the lower-tier PFIC and would be subject to the rules described above on certain distributions by such lower-tier PFIC and a disposition of shares of such lower-tier PFIC even though such U.S. Holder would generally not receive the proceeds of those distributions or dispositions. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the PFIC rules to any of our subsidiaries.

If a company that is a PFIC provides certain information to U.S. Holders, a U.S. Holder can then avoid certain adverse tax consequences described above by making a “qualified electing fund” election to be taxed currently on its proportionate share of the PFIC’s ordinary income and net capital gains. However, a qualified electing fund election will not be available to U.S. Holders because we do not intend to provide the necessary information to allow U.S. Holders to make such an election for any tax year in which we are a PFIC.

Alternatively, a U.S. Holder of “marketable stock” in a PFIC may make a mark-to-market election with respect to such stock. Marketable stock is stock that is traded in other than de minimis quantities on at least 15 days during each calendar quarter (“regularly traded”) on a qualified exchange (such as the New York Stock Exchange) or other market as defined in applicable U.S. Treasury regulations. We believe that our shares and ADSs qualify as being regularly traded on a qualified exchange, but no assurances may be given in this regard. If a U.S. Holder makes this election, such holder will generally (i) include as income for each taxable year the excess, if any, of the fair market value of our shares or ADSs held at the end of the taxable year over the adjusted tax basis of such shares or ADSs and (ii) deduct as a loss the excess, if any, of the adjusted tax basis of our shares or ADSs over the fair market value of such shares or ADSs held at the end of the taxable year, but only to the extent of the amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. The U.S. Holder’s adjusted tax basis in our shares or ADSs would be adjusted to reflect any income or loss resulting from the mark-to-market election. If a U.S. Holder makes a mark-to-market election in respect of a corporation classified as a PFIC and such corporation ceases to be classified as a PFIC, such holder will not be required to take into account the gain or loss described above during any period that such corporation is not classified as a PFIC.

Because a mark-to-market election cannot be made for any lower-tier PFICs that we may own, a U.S. Holder may continue to be subject to the PFIC rules with respect to such holder’s indirect interest in any investments held by us that are treated as an equity interest in a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax consequences that would arise if we were treated as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, including the possibility of making a mark-to-market election.

Foreign tax credit for Brazilian taxes

Any Brazilian IOF/Exchange Tax imposed on a purchase of our shares or ADSs or IOF/Bonds Tax imposed on a transaction (as discussed above under “Brazilian Tax Consequences”) will not be treated as a creditable foreign tax for U.S. federal income tax purposes. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of these Brazilian taxes.

Certain reporting requirements

Certain U.S. Holders are required to report to the IRS information relating to an interest in our shares or ADSs, subject to exceptions (including an exception for shares or ADSs held in accounts maintained by certain financial institutions), by attaching a complete IRS Form 8938, Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets, with its tax return for each year in which it held an interest in our shares or ADSs. If a U.S. Holder holds our shares or ADSs in any year in which we are treated as a PFIC with respect to such U.S. Holder, the U.S. Holder will be required to file IRS Form 8621. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of the U.S. information reporting rules to their particular circumstances.