

- the commercial rate exchange market dedicated principally to trade and financial foreign exchange transactions such as the buying and selling of registered investments by foreign entities, the purchase or sale of shares, or the payment of dividends or interest with respect to shares; and
- the floating rate exchange market that was generally used for transactions not conducted through the commercial foreign exchange market.

On March 4, 2005, the National Monetary Council enacted Resolution No. 3265, pursuant to which the commercial rate exchange market and the floating rate exchange market were unified in a sole exchange market, effective as of March 14, 2005. The new regulation allows, 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, however, the legality of the transaction. Foreign currencies may only be purchased through financial institutions domiciled in Brazil authorized to operate in the exchange market.

Following the introduction of the *real* in 1994 and through 1998, the Central Bank maintained a band system exchange rate, under which the exchange rate between the *real* and the U.S. dollar would fluctuate within a pre-established moving band. In January 1999, due to market pressures, the Central Bank abolished the band system and allowed the *real*/U.S. dollar exchange rate to float freely. Since then, the exchange rate has been established by the market and has fluctuated considerably, reporting a maximum quotation of R\$3.955 per U.S.\$ 1.00 on October 22, 2002. Since the liberalization of the exchange rate, the Central Bank has intervened occasionally to control unstable movements in the foreign exchange rate. It is not possible to predict whether the Central Bank will continue to let the *real* float freely or whether the *real* will remain at its present level. Accordingly, it is not possible to predict what impact the Brazilian government's exchange rate policies may have on us. The Brazilian government could impose a band system in the future or the *real* could devalue or appreciate substantially. See "Item 3D. Risk factors—Risks relating to Brazil."

On May 31, 2005, the exchange rate for *reais* into U.S. dollars was R\$2.404 to U.S.\$1.00, based on the commercial selling rate as reported by the Central Bank. The following table sets forth information on prevailing commercial foreign exchange selling rates for the periods indicated, as published by the Central Bank on its electronic information system, SISBACEN, using PTAX 800, Option 5.

Year Ended	Exchange rates of nominal reais per U.S.\$1.00			
	High	Low	Average	Period-End
December 31, 2000	1.985	1.723	1.835 ⁽¹⁾	1.955
December 31, 2001	2.801	1.936	2.353 ⁽¹⁾	2.320
December 31, 2002	3.955	2.271	2.998 ⁽¹⁾	3.533
December 31, 2003	3.662	2.822	3.060 ⁽¹⁾	2.889
December 31, 2004	3.205	2.654	2.917 ⁽¹⁾	2.654
Month Ended				
December 31, 2004	2.787	2.654	2.721 ⁽²⁾	2.654
January 31, 2005	2.722	2.625	2.674 ⁽²⁾	2.625
February 28, 2005	2.632	2.562	2.597 ⁽²⁾	2.595
March 31, 2005	2.762	2.601	2.682 ⁽²⁾	2.666
April 29, 2005	2.660	2.520	2.590 ⁽²⁾	2.531
May 31, 2005	2.515	2.378	2.447 ⁽²⁾	2.404

(1) Average of the foreign exchange rates on the last day of each month in the period.

(2) Average of the high and low foreign exchange rates for each month.

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors

You should carefully consider the risks described below, as well as the other information contained in this annual report in evaluating an investment in our preferred shares or ADSs. Our business, results of operations or financial condition could be harmed if any of these materializes and, as a result, the trading price of the preferred shares or the ADSs could decline and you could lose a substantial part or even all of your investment.

We have included information in these risk factors concerning Brazil based on information that is publicly available.

Risks Relating to Ultrapar

Government deregulation of LPG prices has caused refinery prices to fluctuate according to the international markets and may affect our revenues and operating margin.

The Brazilian government has historically regulated both the refinery price of LPG, which is the price we pay Petrobras and is thus a component of our cost of sales and services, and the retail price of LPG, which is the price we charge customers and is thus a component of our net sales and services. In the 1990's, the Brazilian government began to deregulate both prices. From May 2001 the retail store prices in Brazil ceased to be regulated.

In January 2002, Petrobras refinery prices, which are the LPG prices charged by Petrobras to distributors, including us, were deregulated and they have thereafter been freely established by Petrobras, although subject to government intervention when deemed appropriate, which occurred between August 2002 and October 2002. In this new market environment, the refinery price tends to fluctuate according to the international markets, while the retail price depends on a number of factors, including the level of competition, brand recognition and the relative prices of the energy sources that compete with LPG.

Fluctuations in LPG refinery prices affect our costs of sales and services. Therefore, if we are not able to pass on increases in the refinery price to our distribution network and/or improve our operational efficiency, our operating margins may be adversely affected. See "Item 5A. Operating Results—Results of Operations" for a discussion on the effect of fluctuations of LPG prices on our net sales and services.

Petrobras is effectively the only supplier of LPG in Brazil. LPG distributors in Brazil, including Ultragaz, do not have formal contracts with Petrobras for the supply of LPG. Any interruption in the supply of LPG from Petrobras immediately affects Ultragaz's ability to provide LPG to its customers.

Prior to 1995, Petrobras benefited from a constitutional monopoly in the production and importation of petroleum products in Brazil. Although the Brazilian government removed Petrobras's monopoly from the Federal Constitution in November 1995, Petrobras effectively remains the sole provider of LPG in Brazil. Currently, Ultragaz and all other LPG distributors in Brazil purchase all or nearly all LPG from Petrobras. Ultragaz's net sales and services represented 62.0% of our consolidated net sales and services for the year ended December 31, 2004. The last significant interruption in the supply of LPG by Petrobras to the distributors occurred in 1995 due to a 15-day strike by Petrobras employees. See "Item 4B. Business Overview—Distribution of liquefied petroleum gas—Industry and regulatory overview." Furthermore, all Brazilian LPG distributors, including Ultragaz, currently purchase all their LPG requirements from Petrobras without a formal LPG supply contract. The procedures for

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ordering and purchasing LPG from Petrobras are generally common to all LPG distributors—including Ultragaz. For more details, see "Item 4B. Business Overview—Ultragaz—Supply of LPG."

Significant interruptions to LPG supplies from Petrobras may occur in the future. Any interruption in the supply of LPG from Petrobras immediately affects Ultragaz's ability to provide LPG to its customers. If we are not able to obtain an adequate supply of LPG from Petrobras under acceptable terms, we may seek to meet our demands through LPG purchased on the international market. The cost of LPG on the international market is currently more expensive than the LPG we obtain through Petrobras.

Intense competition in the LPG distribution market may affect our operating margins.

The Brazilian LPG market is very competitive in all segments—residential, commercial and industrial. Petrobras, our supplier of LPG, and other major companies with greater resources than we possess have entered the Brazilian LPG distribution market. Intense competition in the LPG distribution market could lead to lower sales volumes and increased marketing expenses which may have a material adverse effect on our operating margins. See "Item 4B. Business Overview—Distribution of liquefied petroleum gas—Industry and regulatory overview—The role of Petrobras" and "Business—Distribution of liquefied petroleum gas—Competition."

LPG competes with alternative sources of energy. Competition with and the development of alternate sources of energy in the future may adversely affect the LPG market.

LPG competes with natural gas, wood, diesel, fuel oil and electricity. Natural gas is currently the principal source of energy against which we compete. Natural gas is currently less expensive than LPG for industrial consumers who purchase large volumes, but more expensive for residential consumers. In addition, supply of natural gas requires significant investments in pipelines. The development of alternative sources of energy in the future may adversely affect the LPG market and consequently our business, financial results and results of operations. See "Item 4B. Business Overview—Distribution of liquefied petroleum gas—Competition."

The acquisition of Shell Gás is subject to Brazilian regulations and other antitrust rules. Our future business, financial condition and results of operations would be adversely affected if we do not gain approval of the acquisition.

Ultragaz is subject to regulation under Brazilian antitrust rules. For this reason, the acquisition of Shell Gás (LPG) Brasil S.A., or Shell Gás, is still subject to approval by the Brazilian antitrust authorities, although these operations have been fully integrated into our business. The process is in the first of three phases of examination by the Brazilian antitrust authorities. A ruling requiring us to dispose of some of the acquired assets or to unwind the acquisition would adversely affect our future business, financial condition and results of operations.

Ethylene, the principal raw material used in our petrochemical operations, comes from limited supply sources. Any reduction in the supply of ethylene would have an immediate impact on Oxiteno's production and results of operation.

All second generation petrochemical producers in Brazil that use ethylene as their key raw material, including Oxiteno, our subsidiary involved in the production and sale of chemical and petrochemical products, purchase ethylene from Brazilian suppliers. Approximately 32% of our net revenues are derived from the sale of chemical products that require ethylene. Oxiteno purchases ethylene from two of Brazil's three naphtha crackers, which are the sole sources of ethylene in Brazil. Braskem S.A., or Braskem, supplies all of our ethylene requirements at our plant located at Camaçari pursuant to a long-term contract, and Petroquímica União S.A., or PQU, supplies all of our ethylene requirements at our plant located at Mauá. Oxiteno, like other purchasers from PQU, does not have a long-term contract for the purchase of ethylene from PQU. Because of its characteristics, ethylene is difficult and expensive to store and transport, and cannot be easily imported into Brazil. Therefore, Oxiteno is almost totally dependent on ethylene produced at Braskem and PQU for its supply of ethylene. For the year ended December 31, 2004, Brazilian ethylene imports totaled approximately 3,975 tons, representing less than 1% of Brazil's installed capacity.

Due to ethylene's chemical characteristics, Oxiteno does not store significant quantities of ethylene, and reductions in supply from Braskem and PQU would have an immediate impact on our production and results of operations. If we further expand our production capacity, there is no assurance that we will be able to obtain additional ethylene from Braskem and PQU.

In addition, Petrobras is the principal supplier of naphtha to crackers in Brazil, and any interruption in the supply of naphtha from Petrobras to the crackers could adversely impact their ability to supply ethylene to Oxiteno.

The Brazilian petrochemical industry is very closely influenced by the performance of the international petrochemical industry and its cyclical behavior.

The international petrochemical market is cyclical in nature, with alternating periods of tight supply, increased prices and high margins, and over capacity, declining prices and low margins. The decrease in Brazilian tariff rates on petrochemical products, the increase in demand for such products in Brazil, and the ongoing integration of regional and world markets for commodities, among other factors, have contributed to the increasing integration of the Brazilian petrochemical industry into the international petrochemical marketplace. As a consequence, events affecting the petrochemical industry worldwide could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The price of ethylene is subject to fluctuations in international oil prices.

The price of ethylene, which is the principal component of Oxiteno's cost of sales and services, is directly linked to the price of naphtha which, in turn, is largely linked to the price of crude oil. Consequently, ethylene prices are subject to fluctuations in international oil prices. A significant increase in the price of crude oil and, consequently, naphtha and ethylene, could increase our costs which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

The reduction in import tariffs on petrochemical products can reduce our competitiveness in relation to imported products.

Final prices paid by importers of petrochemical products include import tariffs. Consequently, import tariffs imposed by the Brazilian government affect the prices we can charge for our products. The Brazilian government's negotiation of commercial and free trade agreements, principally with NAFTA and the European Union, may result in reductions in Brazilian import duties on petrochemical products, which generally range between 12% and 14%, and may reduce the competitiveness of our products vis-à-vis imported petrochemical products.

We may be adversely affected by the imposition and enforcement of more stringent environmental laws and regulations.

We are subject to stringent environmental laws and regulations in Brazil and Mexico. Petrochemical companies like ours are required to obtain licenses for their manufacturing facilities from environmental authorities which may also regulate their operations by prescribing specific environmental standards in their operating licenses. Environmental regulations apply particularly to the discharge, handling and disposal of gaseous, liquid and solid products and by-products from manufacturing activities. Changes in these laws and regulations, or changes in the enforcement policy of these laws and regulations, could adversely affect us by increasing our cost of compliance or operation. In addition, it is possible that new laws or additional regulations will come into force, or that the relevant enforcement agencies will seek a more stringent interpretation of existing laws and regulations that would require us to spend additional funds on environmental matters in order to continue to keep our plants and operations in compliance with current legislation. See "Item 4B. Business Overview—Distribution of liquefied petroleum gas—Industry and regulatory overview—Environmental, health and safety standards," "Business—Petrochemicals and chemicals—Overview of the sector and applicable regulations—Environmental, health and safety standards" and "Business—Logistics of chemical products and fuels—Ultracargo—Transportation regulation."

The production, storage and transportation of petrochemicals and chemicals are inherently hazardous.

The complex manufacturing operations we perform at our plants involve a variety of safety and other operating risks, including the handling, production and transportation of highly inflammable, explosive and toxic materials. These risks could result in personal injury and loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property and equipment and environmental damage. A sufficiently large accident at one of our plants or storage facilities could force us to suspend our operations temporarily and result in significant remediation costs and lost revenue. In addition, insurance proceeds may not be available on a timely basis and may be insufficient to cover all losses. Equipment breakdowns, natural disasters, and delays in obtaining imports or required replacement parts or equipment can also affect our manufacturing operations and consequently our results from operations.

Our insurance coverage may be insufficient to cover losses that we might incur.

The operation of any chemical manufacturing plant and the distribution of petrochemicals, as well as the operations of logistics of oil and chemical products and LPG distribution involve substantial risks of property contamination and personal injury and may result in material costs and liabilities. The occurrence of losses or other liabilities that are not covered by insurance or that exceed the limits of our insurance coverage could result in significant unexpected additional costs.

The suspension, cancellation or non-renewal of certain federal tax benefits may adversely affect our results of operations.

We are entitled to federal tax benefits providing for income tax exemption or reduction for our activities in the northeast region of Brazil. These benefits may be cancelled or suspended if we do not comply with our commitment not to

distribute to our shareholders the amounts under the benefits or if the relevant tax authorities decide to suspend or cancel our benefits. As a result, we may become liable for the payment of related taxes at the full tax rates. If we are not able to renew the tax benefits, or if we are only able to renew them under terms that are substantially less favorable than expected, our results of operations may be adversely affected. Tax exemptions amounted to R\$93.5 million, R\$52.4 million and R\$43.5 million, respectively, for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002. See "Item 4B. Business Overview—Distribution of liquefied petroleum gas—Ultragaz—Tax exemption status," "Business—Petrochemicals and chemicals—Oxiteno—Tax exemption status" and "Business—Logistics of chemical products and fuels—Ultracargo—Tax exemption status."

The federal tax authorities may decline to renew these benefits or may modify the terms upon which such renewals will be granted. The failure to renew such benefits on favorable terms could adversely affect our results of operations.

We are currently controlled by members of our founding family and our senior management, which substantially limits the ability of other shareholders to control the direction of our business.

Our senior management and the members of our founding family indirectly control, approximately 66% of our voting share capital through their control of Ultra S.A. This level of control enables Ultra to elect the majority of our directors and to determine the outcome of substantially all actions requiring shareholder approval. See "Item 7A. Major Shareholders—Shareholders' agreement of Ultra S.A."

Our status as a holding company may limit our ability to pay dividends on the preferred shares and consequently, on the ADSs.

As a holding company, we have no significant operating assets other than our ownership of shares of our subsidiaries. Substantially all of our operating income comes from our subsidiaries. Consequently, our ability to pay you dividends depends solely upon our receipt of dividends and other cash flows from our subsidiaries.

Risks Relating to Brazil

The Brazilian government has exercised, and continues to exercise, significant influence over the Brazilian economy. Brazilian political and economic conditions could adversely affect our business and the market price of our preferred shares and the ADSs.

The Brazilian government frequently intervenes in the Brazilian economy and occasionally makes drastic changes in policy and regulations. The Brazilian government's actions to control inflation and effect other policies and regulations have often involved wage and price controls, currency devaluations, capital controls, and limits on imports, among other measures. Our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected by changes in policy or regulations involving or affecting tariffs, exchange controls and other matters, as well as factors such as:

- currency fluctuations;
- inflation;
- interest rates;
- price instability;
- energy shortages;
- liquidity of domestic capital and lending markets;
- fiscal policy; and
- other political, diplomatic, social and economic developments in or affecting Brazil.

Uncertainty over whether the Brazilian government may implement changes in policy or regulation affecting these or other factors in the future may contribute to economic uncertainty in Brazil and to heightened volatility in the Brazilian securities markets and securities issued abroad by Brazilian issuers. These and other future developments in the Brazilian economy and governmental policies may adversely affect us and our business and results of operations and may adversely affect the trading price of the ADSs and our preferred shares.

Inflation and certain governmental measures to curb inflation may contribute significantly to economic uncertainty in Brazil and could harm our business and the market value of the ADSs and our preferred shares.

Brazil has in the past experienced extremely high rates of inflation. Inflation and some of the Brazilian government's measures taken in an attempt to curb inflation have had significant negative effects on the Brazilian economy. Since the introduction of the *real* in 1994, Brazil's inflation rate has been substantially lower than in previous periods. However, inflationary pressures persist, and actions taken in an effort to curb inflation, coupled with speculation about possible future governmental actions, have contributed to economic uncertainty in Brazil and heightened volatility in the Brazilian securities market. According to the *Índice Geral de Preços-Mercado*, or IGP-M, a general price inflation index, the Brazilian general price inflation rates were 25.3%, 8.7% and 12.4% in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively and 2.2% from January 1 through May 31, 2005.

Brazil may experience high levels of inflation in the future. Our cash operating expenses are substantially in *reais* and tend to increase with Brazilian inflation. Inflationary pressures may also hinder our ability to access foreign financial markets or may lead to further government intervention in the economy, including the introduction of government policies that could harm our business or adversely affect the market value of our preferred shares and, as a result, our ADSs.

Exchange rate instability may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations and the market price of the ADSs and our preferred shares.

As a result of inflationary pressures, the Brazilian currency has been devalued periodically during the last four decades. Throughout this period, the Brazilian government has implemented various economic plans and utilized a number of exchange rate policies, including sudden devaluations, periodic mini-devaluations during which the frequency of adjustments has ranged from daily to monthly, floating exchange rate systems, exchange controls and dual exchange rate markets. Although over long periods depreciation of the Brazilian currency generally has correlated with the rate of inflation in Brazil, devaluation over shorter periods has resulted in significant fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Brazilian currency and the U.S. dollar and other currencies.

The *real* depreciated against the U.S. dollar by 9.0% in 2000 and by 18.7% in 2001. In 2002, the *real* depreciated 52.3% against the U.S. dollar, due in part to political uncertainty surrounding the Brazilian presidential elections and the global economic slowdown. Although the *real* appreciated 18.2% against the U.S. dollar in 2003, 8.1% in 2004 and a further 9.4% from January 1 through May 31, 2005, no assurance can be given that the *real* will not depreciate or be devalued against the U.S. dollar again. See "Item 3A. Selected Consolidated Financial Data—Exchange rates."

There are no guarantees that the exchange rate between the *real* and the U.S. dollar will stabilize at current levels. Although we have managed our existing U.S. dollar debt obligations in order to protect against fluctuations in the dollar/*real* exchange rate, we could in the future experience monetary losses relating to these fluctuations. See "Item 11. Quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk—Foreign exchange risk" for information about our foreign exchange risk hedging policy.

Depreciations of the *real* relative to the U.S. dollar also create additional inflationary pressures in Brazil that may negatively affect us. Depreciations generally curtail access to foreign financial markets and may prompt government intervention, including recessionary governmental policies. Depreciations also reduce the U.S. dollar value of distributions and dividends on the ADSs and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the market price of our preferred shares and, as a result, the ADSs. On the other hand, appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar may lead to a deterioration of the country's current account and the balance of payments, as well as to a dampening of export-driven growth.

Developments and the perception of risk in other countries, especially emerging market countries may adversely affect the results of our operations and the market price of the preferred shares and ADSs.

The market value of securities of Brazilian companies is affected to varying degrees by economic and market conditions in other countries, including other Latin American and emerging market countries. Although economic conditions in such countries may differ significantly from economic conditions in Brazil, investors' reactions to developments in these other countries may have an adverse effect on the market value of securities of Brazilian issuers. Crises in other emerging market countries may diminish investor interest in securities of Brazilian issuers, including ours. This could also make it more difficult for us to access the capital markets and finance our operations in the future on acceptable terms or at all.

United States investors may not be able to obtain jurisdiction over or enforce judgments against us.

We are a company incorporated under the laws of the Federative Republic of Brazil. All members of our Board of Directors, executive officers and experts named in this annual report are residents of Brazil. All or a substantial part of the assets pertaining to these individuals and to Ultrapar are located outside the United States. As a result, it is possible that investors may not be able to obtain jurisdiction over these individuals or Ultrapar in the United States, or enforce judgments handed down by United States courts of law based on provisions for civil liability under federal law in relation to securities of the United States or otherwise.

Risks Relating to the Preferred Shares and the American Depositary Shares

The preferred shares and the ADSs generally do not give you voting rights.

Generally under Brazilian corporate law and in the case of our by-laws, holders of preferred shares do not have the right to vote at shareholders' meetings except in limited circumstances. This means, among other things, that holders of our preferred shares and our ADSs, which represent preferred shares, are not entitled to vote on important corporate transactions including mergers or consolidations with other companies. See "Item 10B. Memorandum and By-laws."

The preferred shares and ADSs do not entitle you to a fixed or minimum dividend.

Under our by-laws, unless otherwise proposed by the Board of Directors and approved by the voting shareholders in the Annual General Meeting, we must pay our shareholders a mandatory distribution equal to at least 50% of our adjusted net income. The net income may be capitalized, used to set off losses and/or retained in accordance with the Brazilian corporate law and may not be available for the payment of dividends. Therefore, whether or not you receive a dividend depends on the amount of the mandatory distribution, if any, and whether the Board of Directors and the voting shareholders exercise their discretion to suspend these payments. See "Item 8. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information—Dividend Policy" for a more detailed discussion on mandatory distributions.

You might be unable to exercise preemptive rights with respect to the preferred shares.

In the event of a rights offering or a capital increase which would maintain or increase the proportion of capital

represented by preferred shares, preferred shareholders would have preemptive rights to subscribe to newly issued preferred shares. In the event of a capital increase which would reduce the proportion of capital represented by preferred shares, preferred shareholders would have preemptive rights to subscribe for preferred shares in proportion to their shareholdings and for common shares only to the extent necessary to prevent dilution of their interest in the company.

Our by-laws establish that the Board of Directors may exclude preemptive rights to the current shareholders, holding either common or preferred shares, in the case of an offering of new shares to be sold on a registered stock exchange or through public subscription.

The holders of preferred shares or ADSs may be unable to exercise their preemptive rights in relation to the preferred shares represented by the ADSs, unless we file a registration statement pursuant to the United States Securities Act of 1933 or an exemption from the registration requirements applies. We are not obliged to file registration statements with respect to the preemptive rights and therefore do not assure holders that such a registration will be obtained. If the rights are not registered as required, the depositary will try to sell the preemptive rights held by holder of the ADSs and you will have the right to the net sale value, if any. However, the preemptive rights will expire without compensation to you should the depositary not succeed in selling them.

If you exchange the ADSs for preferred shares, you risk losing certain foreign currency remittance and Brazilian tax advantages.

The ADSs benefit from the depositary's certificate of foreign capital registration, which permits the depositary to convert dividends and other distributions with respect to the preferred shares into foreign currency and remit the proceeds abroad. If you exchange your ADSs for preferred shares, you will be entitled to rely on the depositary's certificate of foreign capital registration for five business days from the date of exchange. Thereafter, you will not be able to remit abroad non-Brazilian currency unless you obtain your own certificate of foreign capital registration or you qualify under National Monetary Council Resolution 2,689 dated January 26, 2000, known as Resolution 2,689, which entitles certain investors to buy and sell shares on Brazilian stock exchanges without obtaining separate certificates of registration. If you do not qualify under Resolution 2,689, you will generally be subject to less favorable tax treatment on distributions with respect to the preferred shares. The depositary's certificate of registration or any certificate of foreign capital registration obtained by you may be affected by future legislative or regulatory changes, and additional Brazilian law restrictions applicable to your investment in the ADSs may be

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imposed in the future. For a more complete description of Brazilian tax regulations, see "Item 10E. Taxation—Brazilian tax consequences."

The relative volatility and illiquidity of the Brazilian securities markets may adversely affect you.

Investing in securities, such as the preferred shares or ADSs, of issuers from emerging market countries, including Brazil, involves a higher degree of risk than investing in securities of issuers from more developed countries. For the reasons above, investments involving risks relating to Brazil, such as investments in ADSs, are generally considered speculative in nature and are subject to certain economic and political risks, including but not limited to:

- changes to the regulatory, tax, economic and political environment that may affect the ability of investors to receive payments, in whole or in part, in respect of their investments; and
- restrictions on foreign investment and on repatriation of capital invested.

The Brazilian securities market is substantially smaller, less liquid, more concentrated and more volatile than major securities markets in the United States. This may limit your ability to sell the preferred shares underlying your ADSs at the price and time at which you wish to do so. The São Paulo Stock Exchange, known as Bovespa, the only Brazilian stock exchange, had a market capitalization of approximately U.S.\$341 billion as of December 31, 2004 and an average monthly trading volume of approximately U.S.\$8.7 billion for 2004. In comparison, the New York Stock Exchange had a market capitalization of U.S.\$19.8 trillion as of December 31, 2004 and an average monthly trading volume of approximately U.S.\$968 billion for 2004.

There is also a large concentration in the Brazilian securities market. The ten largest companies in terms of market capitalization represented approximately 49% of the aggregate market capitalization of the Bovespa as of December 31, 2004. The top ten stocks in terms of trading volume accounted for approximately 48% of all shares traded on the Bovespa in 2004. Ultrapar's average daily volume on both stock exchanges in 2004, 2003 and 2002 was R\$3.7 million, R\$1.6 million and R\$1.2 million, respectively.

Controls and restrictions on the remittance of foreign currency could negatively affect your ability to convert and remit dividends, distributions or the proceeds from the sale of our preferred shares, Ultrapar's capacity to make dividend payments to non- Brazilian investors and the market price of our preferred shares and ADSs.

Brazilian law provides that whenever there is a serious imbalance in the Brazilian balance of payments, or reasons for believing that there will be a serious imbalance in the future, the Brazilian government can impose temporary restrictions on remittances of income on investments by non-Brazilian investors in Brazil. The probability that the Brazilian government might impose such restrictions is related to the level of the country's foreign currency reserves, the availability of currency in the foreign exchange markets on the maturity date of a payment, the amount of the Brazilian debt servicing requirement in relation to the economy as a whole, and the Brazilian policy towards the International Monetary Fund, among other factors. We are unable to give assurances that the Central Bank will not modify its policies or that the Brazilian government will not introduce restrictions or cause delays in payments by Brazilian entities of dividends relating to securities issued in the overseas capital markets up to the present. Such restrictions or delays could negatively affect your ability to convert and remit dividends, distributions or the proceeds from the sale of our preferred shares, Ultrapar's capacity to make dividend payments to non-Brazilian investors and the market price of our preferred shares and the ADSs.

Changes in Brazilian tax laws may have an adverse impact on the taxes applicable to a disposition of our ADSs.

According to Law No. 10,833, enacted on December 29, 2003, the disposition of assets located in Brazil by a non-resident to either a Brazilian resident or a non-resident is subject to taxation in Brazil, regardless of whether the