

Pursuant to Resolution No. 4,373, non-Brazilian investors must:

- appoint at least one representative in Brazil with powers to take action relating to its investments;
- appoint an authorized custodian in Brazil for its investments, which must be a financial institution duly authorized by the Central Bank and CVM;
- complete the appropriate foreign investor registration forms;
- register as a non-Brazilian investor with the CVM;
- register its investments with the Central Bank; and
- obtain a taxpayer identification number from the Brazilian federal tax authorities.

The securities and other financial assets held by a non-Brazilian investor pursuant to Resolution No. 4,373 must be registered or maintained in deposit accounts or under the custody of an entity duly licensed by the Central Bank or the CVM or be registered in registration, clearing and custody systems authorized by the Central Bank or by the CVM. In addition, the trading of securities held under Resolution No. 4,373 is restricted to transactions carried out on stock exchanges or through organized over-the-counter markets licensed by the CVM.

The offshore transfer or assignment of the securities or other financial assets held by non-Brazilian investors pursuant to Resolution No. 4,373 are prohibited, except for transfers resulting from a corporate reorganization effected abroad by a non-Brazilian investor, or occurring upon the death of an investor by operation of law or will.

Law 4,131

To obtain a certificate of foreign capital registration from the Central Bank under Law No. 4,131, a foreign direct investor must:

- register as a foreign direct investor with the Central Bank;
- obtain a taxpayer identification number from the Brazilian tax authorities;
- appoint a tax representative in Brazil; and
- appoint a representative in Brazil for service of process in respect of suits based on the Brazilian corporate law.

Foreign direct investors under Law No. 4,131 may sell their shares in either private or open market transactions, but these investors will generally be subject to less favorable tax treatment on gains with respect to our common shares. See “Item 10–Additional Information– Taxation–Brazilian Tax Considerations.”

E. Taxation

The following discussion contains a description of the material Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common shares or ADSs. The following discussion does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase, hold or dispose of our common shares or ADSs. This discussion is based upon the tax laws of Brazil and the United States and regulations under these tax laws as currently in effect, which are subject to change.

Although there is at present no income tax treaty between Brazil and the United States, the tax authorities of the two countries have had discussions that may culminate in such a treaty. No assurance can be given, however, as to whether or when a treaty will enter into force or how it will affect the U.S. holders of our common shares or ADSs.

Prospective purchasers of our common shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common shares or ADSs in their particular circumstances.

Brazilian Tax Considerations

The following discussion contains a description of the material Brazilian tax consequences, subject to the limitations set forth herein, of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common shares or ADSs by a holder not deemed to be domiciled in Brazil for purposes of Brazilian taxation, or a Non-Resident Holder. This discussion 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 that may be applicable to any particular Non-Resident Holder. Therefore, each Non-Resident Holder should consult its own tax advisor about the Brazilian tax consequences of an investment in our common shares or ADSs.

Individuals domiciled in Brazil and Brazilian companies are taxed in Brazil on the basis of their worldwide income which includes earnings of Brazilian companies' foreign subsidiaries, branches and affiliates. The earnings of branches of foreign companies and non-Brazilian residents, or nonresidents, in general are taxed in Brazil only on income derived from Brazilian sources.

Dividends

Dividends paid by a Brazilian corporation, such as us, including stock dividends and other dividends paid to a Non-Resident Holder of our common shares or ADSs, are currently not subject to income tax withholding in Brazil to the extent that such amounts are related to profits generated after January 1, 1996. Dividends paid from profits generated before January 1, 1996 may be subject to Brazilian income tax withholding at varying rates, according to the tax legislation applicable to each corresponding year.

On September 16, 2013, Brazilian tax authorities issued Normative Ruling 1,397/13, which, among other things, established rules regarding the withholding tax exemption on dividend distributions. According to Normative Ruling 1,397/13, the withholding tax exemption on dividend income would only be applicable to dividends distributed out of profits determined in accordance with Brazilian accounting rules that were effective until December 31, 2007 (old Brazilian GAAP). In this sense, if (i) taxpayers make dividend distributions based on new Brazilian accounting rules already conforming to IFRS principles, and (ii) such distributions are made in excess of the dividends that could have been distributed had the profits been determined in accordance with Brazilian accounting rules that were effective until December 31, 2007, the "excess distribution" would be deemed as taxable income in the hands of the beneficiary and subject to withholding income tax at the rate of 15% or 25%.

With the enactment of Law 12,973/14, this taxation has been eliminated, since this law determined the exemption of Income Tax on the excess distribution of dividends provided that these have been assessed from 2008 to 2013 and from 2015 onwards. The risk for the dividends paid in excess remains only with respect to profit accrued in 2014 for legal entities that have not opted for the advance of effects of Law 12,973/14 for 2014, due to the provisions of RFB Regulatory Instruction 1,492/14.

Interest on Shareholders' Equity

Law No. 9,249, of December 26, 1995, as amended, allows a Brazilian corporation, such as us, to make distributions to shareholders of interest on shareholders' equity, and treat those payments as a deductible expense for purposes of calculating Brazilian corporate income tax, and, since 1997, social contribution tax on net profit as well, as long as the limits described below are observed. These distributions may be paid in cash. For tax purposes, the deductible amount of this interest is limited to the daily pro rata variation of the TJLP, as determined by the Central Bank from time to time, and the amount of the deduction may not exceed the greater of:

- 50% of net income (after the deduction of social contribution tax on net profit but before taking into account the provision for corporate income tax and the amounts attributable to shareholders as interest on shareholders' equity) for the period in respect of which the payment is made; and
- 50% of the sum of retained profits and income reserves as of the date of the beginning of the period in respect of which the payment is made.

Payment of interest on shareholders' equity to a Non-Resident Holder is subject to withholding income tax at the rate of 15%, or 25% if the Non-Resident Holder is domiciled in (i) a country or location that does not impose income tax, or (ii) where the maximum income tax rate is lower than 20% or (iii) a Tax Haven Jurisdiction. See "Interpretation of the Discussion of the Definition of "Tax Haven Jurisdictions" below.

These payments of interest on shareholders' equity to a Non-Resident Holder may be included, at their net value, as part of any mandatory dividend. To the extent payment of interest on shareholders' equity is so included, we are required to distribute to shareholders an additional amount to ensure that the net amount received by them, after payment of the applicable income tax withholding, plus the amount of declared dividends, is at least equal to the mandatory dividend.

Payments of interest on shareholders' equity are decided by our shareholders, at our annual shareholders meeting, on the basis of recommendations of our board of directors. No assurance can be given that our board of directors will not recommend that future distributions of profits should be made by means of interest on shareholders' equity instead of by means of dividends.

Taxation of Gains

Under Law No. 10,833/2003, the gain on the disposition or sale of assets located in Brazil by a Non-Resident Holder, whether to another non-Brazilian resident or to a Brazilian resident, may be subject to income tax withholding in Brazil.

With respect to the disposition of our common shares, as they are assets located in Brazil, the Non-Resident Holder should be subject to income tax on the gains assessed, following the rules described below, regardless of whether the transactions are conducted in Brazil or with a Brazilian resident.

With respect to our ADSs, although the matter is not entirely clear, arguably the gains realized by a Non-Resident Holder upon the disposition of ADSs to another non-Brazilian resident will not be taxed in Brazil, on the basis that ADSs are not "assets located in Brazil" for the purposes of Law No. 10,833/2003. We cannot assure you, however, that the Brazilian tax authorities or the Brazilian courts will agree with this interpretation. As a result, gains on a disposition of ADSs by a Non-Resident Holder to a Brazilian resident, or even to a non-Brazilian resident, in the event that courts determine that ADSs would constitute assets located in Brazil, may be subject to income tax in Brazil according to the rules applicable to our common shares, described below.

As a general rule, gains realized as a result of a disposition of our common shares or ADSs are the positive difference between the amount realized on the transaction and the acquisition cost of our common shares or ADSs.

Under Brazilian law, however, income tax rules on such gains can vary depending on the domicile of the Non-Resident Holder, the type of registration of the investment by the Non-Resident Holder with the Central Bank and how the disposition is carried out, as described below.

Gains realized on a disposition of shares carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange (which includes the organized over-the-counter market) are:

- exempt from income tax when realized by a Non-Resident Holder that (1) has registered its investment in Brazil with the Central Bank under the rules of Resolution 4,373 (a "4,373 Holder"), and (2) is not a resident in a country or location which is defined as a Tax Haven Jurisdiction for those purposes; or
- subject to income tax at a rate of 15% in the case of gains realized by (A) a Non-Resident Holder that (1) is not a 4,373 Holder and (2) is not a Tax Haven Jurisdiction resident; or by (B) a Non-Resident Holder that (1) is a 4,373 Holder, and (2) is a Tax Haven Jurisdiction resident. In this case, a withholding income tax of 0.005% shall be applicable and withheld by the intermediary institution (i.e. a broker) that receives the order directly from the Non-Resident Holder, which can be later offset against any income tax due on the capital gain earned by the Non-Resident Holder; and

- subject to income tax at a rate of up to 25% in any other case, including a case of gains assessed by a Non-Resident Holder that is not a 4,373 Holder, and is a Tax Haven Jurisdiction resident for this purpose (as described below). In these cases, a withholding income tax of 0.005% of the sale value will be applicable and can be later offset with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

In the case of redemption of securities or capital reduction by a Brazilian corporation, such as us, the positive difference between the amount effectively received by the Non-Resident Holder and the corresponding acquisition cost is treated, for tax purposes, as capital gain derived from 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.

The deposit of our common shares in exchange for ADSs will be subject to Brazilian income tax if the acquisition cost of the shares is lower than (1) the average price per share on a Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of such shares were sold on the day of deposit, or (2) 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 in the 15 trading sessions immediately preceding such deposit. In such case, the difference between the acquisition cost and the average price of the shares calculated as above will be considered to be a capital gain subject to income tax withholding at the rate of 15% or 25%, as the case may be. In some circumstances, there may be arguments to claim that this taxation is not applicable in the case of a Non-Resident Holder that is a 4,373 Holder and is not a resident in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction for this purpose. The availability of these arguments to any specific holder of our common shares will depend on the circumstances of such holder. Prospective holders of our common shares should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the deposit of our common shares in exchange for ADSs.

Any exercise of preemptive rights relating to our common shares or ADSs will not be subject to Brazilian taxation. Any gain on the sale or assignment of preemptive rights relating to our common shares, including the sale or assignment carried out by the depository, on behalf of Non-Resident Holders of ADSs, will be subject to Brazilian income taxation according to the same rules applicable to the sale or disposition of our common shares.

Interpretation of the Discussion of the Definition of "Tax Haven Jurisdictions"

On November 28, 2014 Brazilian tax authorities enacted Normative Instruction No. 488 listing (i) the countries and jurisdictions considered Tax Haven Jurisdictions (countries and jurisdictions that do not tax income or tax it at a rate below 17% or where the local legislation does not allow access to information related to the shareholding composition of legal entities or to their ownership or to the identity of the effective beneficiary of the income attributed to non-residents), and (ii) the privileged tax regimes, which definition is provided by Law No. 11,727, 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 and thin capitalization 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 will also apply to a Non-Resident Holder on payments potentially made by a Brazilian source.

We recommend prospective investors to consult their own tax advisors from time to time to verify any possible tax consequences arising of Normative Instruction No. 1,037 and Law No. 11,727. If the Brazilian tax authorities determine that the concept of "privileged tax regime" provided by Law No. 11,727 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%.

Tax on Foreign Exchange Transactions (IOF/Exchange Tax)

Brazilian law imposes the IOF/Exchange Tax on the conversion of *reais* into foreign currency and on the conversion of foreign currency into *reais*. Foreign exchange agreements entered into as from October 7, 2014 in connection with inflows of funds related to investments carried out by Non-Resident Holders in the Brazilian financial and capital markets are subject to the IOF/Exchange Tax at a zero percent rate. Foreign exchange transactions related to outflows of funds in connection with investments made in the Brazilian financial and capital markets are subject to IOF/Exchange Tax at a zero percent rate. This zero percent rate applies to payments of dividends and interest on shareholders' equity to Non-Resident Holders with respect to investments in the Brazilian financial and capital markets. Other than these transactions, the rate applicable to most foreign exchange transactions is 0.38%. Other rates may apply to particular transactions and the Brazilian government may increase the rate at any time up to 25% on the foreign exchange transaction amount. However, any increase in rates is only authorized to apply to future transactions.

Tax on Transactions Involving Bonds and Securities (IOF/Securities Tax)

Brazilian law also imposes the IOF/Securities Tax due on transactions involving bonds and securities, including those carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange. The rate of the IOF/Securities Tax applicable to transactions involving our common shares is currently zero. However, the rate of the IOF/Securities Tax applicable to the transfer of our common shares with the specific purpose of enabling the issuance of ADSs is currently zero. This rate is applied on the product of (1) the number of shares which are transferred, multiplied by (2) the closing price for those shares on the date prior to the transfer or, if such closing price is not available on that date, the last available closing price for those shares. The Brazilian government may increase the rate of the IOF/Securities Tax at any time up to 1.5% per day of the transaction amount, but only in respect of transactions carried out after the increase in rate enters into force.

Other Brazilian Taxes

There are no Brazilian inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of our common shares or ADSs by a Non-Resident Holder except for gift and inheritance taxes levied by some states in Brazil. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by Non-Resident Holders of our common shares or ADSs.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following summary describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common shares and ADSs. This discussion deals only with U.S. Holders (as defined below) that hold our common shares or ADSs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes (generally, property held for investment). This summary does not represent a detailed description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, including if you are:

- a dealer or broker in securities or currencies;
- a financial institution;
- a regulated investment company;
- a real estate investment trust;
- an insurance company;
- a tax-exempt organization;
- a person that received our common shares or ADSs as compensation for the performance of services;
- a person holding our common shares or ADSs as part of a hedging, integrated or conversion transaction or a straddle;
- a person deemed to sell common shares or ADSs under the constructive sale provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code");
- a trader in securities that has elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities;
- a person liable for alternative minimum tax;
- a person who owns or is deemed to own 10% or more of our stock (by vote or value);

- a partnership or other pass-through entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- a person required to accelerate the recognition of any item of gross income with respect to our common shares or ADSs as a result of such income being recognized on an applicable financial statement; or
- a person whose “functional currency” is not the U.S. dollar.

As used herein, “U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of our common shares or ADSs that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust if it (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

The discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Code, and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be repealed, revoked or modified (possibly on a retroactive basis) so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. In addition, this summary assumes that the deposit agreement in connection with our ADS program, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

If a partnership (or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds our common shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partnership or a partner of a partnership holding our common shares or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisors.

This summary does not contain a detailed description of all the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular circumstances and does not address the Medicare tax on net investment income, U.S. federal estate and gift taxes or the effects of any state, local or non-U.S. tax laws.

If you are considering the purchase of our common shares or ADSs, you should consult your own tax advisors concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular situation as well as any consequences arising under other U.S. federal tax laws and the laws of any other tax jurisdiction.

ADSs

If you hold ADSs, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you generally will be treated as the owner of the underlying common shares that are represented by such ADSs. Accordingly, deposits or withdrawals of our common shares for ADSs will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Taxation of Distributions

Subject to the discussion under “—Passive Foreign Investment Company” below, distributions on our common shares or ADSs (including amounts withheld to reflect Brazilian withholding taxes and distributions of interest on shareholders’ equity, as described above under “—Brazilian Tax Considerations”) will be taxable as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Such dividends (including withheld taxes) will be includable in your gross income as ordinary income on the day actually or constructively received by you, in the case of our common shares, or by the depositary, in the case of our ADSs. Such dividends, however, will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction generally allowed to corporations.

Subject to applicable limitations (including a minimum holding period requirement), dividends received by non-corporate U.S. shareholders from a qualified foreign corporation may be treated as “qualified dividend income” that is subject to reduced rates of taxation. A foreign corporation generally is treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends paid by that corporation on shares (or ADSs backed by such shares) that are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. U.S. Treasury Department guidance indicates that our ADSs (which are listed on the NYSE) are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Thus, we believe that dividends that we pay on our ADSs to U.S. Holders will be potentially eligible for these reduced tax rates. Since our common shares are not listed on an established securities market in the United States, we do not believe that dividends that we pay on our common shares that are not represented by ADSs currently meet the conditions required for these reduced tax rates. There also can be no assurance that our ADSs will be considered readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States in later years. You should consult your tax advisors regarding the application of these rules to your particular circumstances.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, non-corporate U.S. Holders will not be eligible for reduced rates of taxation on any dividends received from us if we are a passive foreign investment company (a “PFIC”) in the taxable year in which such dividends are paid or in the preceding taxable year (as discussed under “—Passive Foreign Investment Company” below).

The amount of any dividend paid in *reais* will equal the U.S. dollar value of the *reais* received, calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the dividend is actually or constructively received by you, in the case of our common shares, or by the depository, in the case of our ADSs, regardless of whether the *reais* are converted into U.S. dollars at that time. If *reais* received as a dividend are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, you will have a tax basis in the *reais* equal to their U.S. dollar value on the date of receipt. Any gain or loss realized on a subsequent conversion or other disposition of *reais* will be treated as U.S. source ordinary income or loss.

Subject to certain conditions and limitations (including a minimum holding period requirement) and the Foreign Tax Credit Regulations (as defined below), Brazilian withholding taxes on dividends may be treated as foreign taxes eligible for credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on our common shares or ADSs will be treated as income from sources outside the United States and will generally constitute passive category income. However, recently issued Treasury regulations (the “Foreign Tax Credit Regulations”) impose additional requirements for foreign taxes to be eligible for a foreign tax credit, and there can be no assurance that those requirements will be satisfied. A recent notice from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) indicates that the Treasury and the IRS are considering proposing amendments to the Foreign Tax Credit Regulations and also allows taxpayers to defer the application of many aspects of the Foreign Tax Credit Regulations for taxable years ending on or before December 31, 2023 (the notice also indicates that the Treasury and the IRS are considering whether, and under what conditions, to provide additional temporary relief for later taxable years). Instead of claiming a foreign tax credit, you may be able to deduct Brazilian withholding taxes on dividends in computing your taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law (including that a U.S. Holder is not eligible for a deduction for foreign income taxes paid or accrued in a taxable year if such U.S. Holder claims a foreign tax credit for any foreign income taxes paid or accrued in the same taxable year). The rules governing the foreign tax credit and deductions for foreign taxes are complex. You are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the Foreign Tax Credit Regulations and the availability of the foreign tax credit or a deduction under your particular circumstances.

To the extent that the amount of any distribution (including amounts withheld to reflect Brazilian withholding taxes and distributions of interest on shareholders’ equity, as described above under “—Brazilian Tax Considerations”) exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital, causing a reduction in the adjusted basis of our common shares or ADSs, and the balance in excess of adjusted basis will be taxed as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange (as discussed below under “—Taxation of Capital Gains”). However, we do not expect to keep earnings and profits in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles. Therefore, you should expect that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend (as discussed above).

Distributions of common shares or ADSs that are received as part of a pro rata distribution to all of our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

In general, we will be a PFIC for any taxable year in which:

- at least 75% of our gross income is passive income, or
- at least 50% of the value (generally determined based on a quarterly average) of our assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income.

For purposes of determining whether we are a PFIC, cash generally is a passive asset and passive income generally includes dividends, interest, royalties and rents (other than royalties and rents derived in the active conduct of a trade or business and not derived from a related person). In addition, income from commodities transactions is generally considered passive unless such income is derived in the active conduct of a commodities business. If we own at least 25% (by value) of the stock of another corporation, we will be treated, for purposes of the PFIC tests, as owning our proportionate share of the other corporation's assets and receiving our proportionate share of the other corporation's income.

Based on the composition of our income and assets and the valuation of our assets, including goodwill, we do not believe that we were classified as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for our most recent taxable year. The rules in this regard are not entirely clear, however, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will not successfully assert a contrary position. In addition, the determination of whether we are a PFIC is made annually. Accordingly, it is possible that our status as a PFIC may change in any future taxable year due to changes in our asset or income composition.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold our common shares or ADSs, and you do not make a timely mark-to-market election, as described below, you will be subject to special tax rules with respect to any "excess distribution" received and any gain realized from a sale or other disposition, including a pledge, of common shares or ADSs. Distributions received in a taxable year will be treated as excess distributions to the extent that they are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions received during the shorter of the three preceding taxable years or your holding period for the common shares or ADSs. Under these special tax rules:

- the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over your holding period for the common shares or ADSs,
- the amount allocated to the current taxable year, and any taxable year prior to the first taxable year in which we were a PFIC, will be treated as ordinary income, and
- the amount allocated to each other year will be subject to tax at the highest tax rate in effect for that year for individuals or corporations, as applicable, and the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed on the resulting tax attributable to each such year.

Although the determination of whether we are a PFIC is made annually, if we are a PFIC for any taxable year in which you hold our common shares or ADSs, you will generally be subject to the special tax rules discussed above for that year and for each subsequent year in which you hold the common shares or ADSs (even if we do not qualify as a PFIC in such subsequent years). However, if we cease to be a PFIC, you can avoid the continuing impact of the PFIC rules by making a special election (a "Purging Election") to recognize gain in the manner described above as if your common shares or ADSs had been sold on the last day of the last taxable year during which we were a PFIC. In addition, a new holding period would be deemed to begin for your common shares or ADSs for purposes of the PFIC rules. After the Purging Election, your common shares or ADSs with respect to which the Purging Election was made will not be treated as shares in a PFIC unless we subsequently become a PFIC. You are urged to consult your own tax advisor about the availability of this election, and whether making the election would be advisable in your particular circumstances.

In lieu of being subject to the rules discussed above with respect to excess distributions and recognized gains, you may make a mark-to-market election with respect to your common shares or ADSs, provided such common shares or ADSs are treated as “marketable stock.” The common shares or ADSs generally will be treated as marketable stock if the common shares or ADSs are regularly traded on a “qualified exchange or other market” (within the meaning of the applicable Treasury regulations). Under current law, the mark-to-market election may be available to holders of ADSs because the ADSs are listed on the NYSE, which constitutes a qualified exchange, although there can be no assurance that the ADSs will be “regularly traded” for purposes of the mark-to-market election. It should also be noted that only our ADSs and not our common shares are listed on a qualified stock exchange in the United States. Our common shares are listed on the B3, which must meet certain trading, listing, financial disclosure and other requirements to be treated as a qualified exchange under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations for purposes of the mark-to-market election, and no assurance can be given that our common shares will be “regularly traded” for purposes of the mark-to-market election.

If you make an effective mark-to-market election, for each taxable year that we are a PFIC you will include as ordinary income the excess of the fair market value of your common shares or ADSs at the end of the year over your adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADSs. You will be entitled to deduct as an ordinary loss in each such year the excess of your adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADSs over their fair market value at the end of the year, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. If you make an effective mark-to-market election, in each year that we are a PFIC any gain you recognize upon the sale or other disposition of your common shares or ADSs will be treated as ordinary income and any loss will be treated as ordinary loss, but such loss will be ordinary loss only to the extent of the net amount of previously included income as a result of the mark-to-market election.

Your adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADSs will be increased by the amount of any income inclusion and decreased by the amount of any deductions under the mark-to-market rules. If you make a mark-to-market election, it will be effective for the taxable year for which the election is made and all subsequent taxable years unless the common shares or ADSs are no longer regularly traded on a qualified exchange or other market, or the IRS consents to the revocation of the election. However, because a mark-to-market election cannot be made for any lower-tier PFICs that we may own (as discussed below), you will generally continue to be subject to the special tax rules discussed above with respect to your indirect interest in any such lower-tier PFIC. You are urged to consult your tax advisor about the availability of the mark-to-market election, and whether making the election would be advisable in your particular circumstances.

Alternatively, you can sometimes avoid the rules described above by electing to treat a PFIC as a “qualified electing fund” under Section 1295 of the Code. However, this option is not available to you because we do not intend to comply with the requirements necessary to permit you to make this election.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold our common shares or ADSs and any of our non-U.S. subsidiaries is also a PFIC, you will be treated as owning a proportionate amount (by value) of the shares of the lower-tier PFIC for purposes of the application of the PFIC rules. You are urged to consult your tax advisors about the application of the PFIC rules to any of our subsidiaries.

You will generally be required to file IRS Form 8621 if you hold our common shares or ADSs in any year in which we are classified as a PFIC. You are urged to consult your tax advisors concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding common shares or ADSs if we are considered a PFIC in any taxable year.

Taxation of Capital Gains

You generally will recognize taxable gain or loss upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our common shares or ADSs equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of such common shares or ADSs and your adjusted tax basis in such common shares or ADSs, both determined in U.S. dollars. Subject to the discussion under “Passive Foreign Investment Company” above, such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss. Capital gains or losses will be long-term capital gain or loss if our common shares or ADSs have been held for more than one year. Certain non-corporate U.S. Holders (including individuals) may be eligible for preferential rates of U.S. federal income tax in respect of long-term capital gains. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

If a Brazilian income tax is withheld on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our common shares or ADSs, your amount realized will include the gross amount of the proceeds of that sale, exchange or other taxable disposition before deduction of the Brazilian income tax. Capital gain or loss, if any, realized by you on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our common shares or ADSs generally will be treated as U.S. source gain or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. Consequently, in the case of gain from the disposition of common shares or ADSs that is subject to Brazilian income tax, you may not be able to benefit from a foreign tax credit for that Brazilian income tax (i.e., because the gain from the disposition would be U.S. source), unless you can apply the credit (subject to applicable limitations) against U.S. federal income tax payable on other income from foreign sources. However, pursuant to the Foreign Tax Credit Regulations (if applicable), any such Brazilian income tax would generally not be a foreign income tax eligible for a foreign tax credit (regardless of any other income that you may have that is derived from foreign sources). In such case, the non-creditable Brazilian income tax may reduce the amount realized on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of the common shares or ADSs. You are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the tax consequences if Brazilian income tax is imposed on a disposition of common shares or ADSs, including the effect of the Foreign Tax Credit Regulations (including, as discussed above, the possible deferral of many aspects thereof for taxable years ending on or before December 31, 2023) and the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

Other Brazilian Taxes

You should note that any Brazilian IOF/Exchange Tax or IOF/Securities Tax (as discussed above under “Brazilian Tax Considerations”) generally will not be treated as a creditable foreign tax for U.S. federal income tax purposes. You should consult your tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of these taxes.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, information reporting will apply to dividends (including distributions of interest on shareholders’ equity) in respect of our common shares or ADSs and the proceeds from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our common shares or ADSs that are paid to you within the United States (and in certain cases, outside the United States), unless you establish that you are an exempt recipient, such as a corporation. A backup withholding tax may apply to such payments if you fail to provide your correct taxpayer identification number and a certification that you are not subject to backup withholding or if you fail to report in full dividend and interest income.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

The above description is not intended to constitute a complete analysis of all tax consequences relating to the acquisition, ownership or disposition of our common shares or ADSs. Each holder should consult such holder’s own tax advisor concerning the overall tax consequences to it, including the consequences under laws other than U.S. federal income tax laws, of an investment in our common shares or ADSs.

F. Dividends and Paying Agents

Not applicable.

G. Statement by Experts

Not applicable.

H. Documents on Display

We are subject to the reporting requirements of the Exchange Act, which requires that we file periodic reports and other information with the SEC. As a foreign private issuer, we file annual reports on Form 20-F as opposed to Form 10-K. We do not file quarterly reports on Form 10-Q but furnish reports on Form 6-K.

Our reports and other information filed by us with the SEC are available on the SEC website at <http://www.sec.gov> and may also be inspected and copied by the public at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at Station Place, 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549.