

Under Resolution No. 2,689, foreign investors registered with the Brazilian securities commission may buy and sell shares on the São Paulo Stock Exchange without obtaining a separate certificate of registration for each transaction. Investors under these regulations are also generally entitled to favorable tax treatment.

Annex V to Resolution No. 1,289, as amended, of the National Monetary Council, also known as the Annex V Regulations, provides for the issuance of depositary receipts in foreign markets in respect of shares of Brazilian issuers.

Following the closing of the sale of our ADSs in May 2002, an electronic certificate of registration was made in the name of The Bank of New York, as the depositary, with respect to such ADSs and will be maintained by the Brazilian custodian for our common shares on behalf of the depositary. This electronic registration is carried on through the Central Bank Information System. Pursuant to the registration, the custodian and the depositary are able to convert dividends and other distributions with respect to the common shares represented by ADSs into foreign currency and remit the proceeds outside Brazil. In the event that a holder of ADSs exchanges such ADSs for common shares, the holder will be entitled to continue to rely on such electronic registration for five business days after the exchange. Thereafter, unless our common shares are held pursuant to Resolution No. 2,689 by a duly registered investor, or, if not a registered investor under Resolution No. 2,689, a holder of common shares applies for and obtains a new certificate of registration from the Central Bank, the holder may not be able to convert into foreign currency and remit outside Brazil the proceeds from the disposition of, or distributions with respect to, our common shares, and the holder, if not registered under Resolution No. 2,689, will be subject to less favorable Brazilian tax treatment than a holder of ADSs. In addition, if the foreign investor resides in a “tax haven” jurisdiction, the investor will be also subject to less favorable tax treatment.

See “Item 3. Key Information—Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Common Shares and ADSs—If a holder exchanges ADSs for common shares, he or she risks losing the ability to remit foreign currency abroad and Brazilian tax advantages” and “—Taxation—Brazilian Tax Considerations” below.

Taxation

This summary contains a description of certain Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs by a holder.

The summary is based upon the tax laws of Brazil and the United States as in effect on the date of this annual report, which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, and to differing interpretations. Holders of common shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the Brazilian, U.S. or other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs, including, in particular, the effect of any foreign, state or local tax laws.

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

Brazilian Tax Considerations

The following discussion summarizes the principal Brazilian tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs by a holder that is not domiciled in Brazil for purposes of Brazilian taxation (a “non-Brazilian holder”). It is based on Brazilian law as currently in effect, and, therefore, any change in such law may change the consequences described below. Each non-Brazilian holder should consult his or her own tax adviser concerning the Brazilian tax consequences of an investment in common shares or ADSs.

A non-Brazilian holder of ADSs may withdraw them in exchange for common shares in Brazil. Pursuant to Brazilian law, the non-Brazilian holder may invest in the common shares under Resolution 2,689, of January 26, 2000, of the National Monetary Council (“2,689 holder”).

Taxation of Dividends

As a result of the tax legislation adopted on December 26, 1995, dividends based on profits generated after January 1, 1996, including dividends paid in kind, payable by us in respect of common shares or ADSs, are exempt from withholding income tax. 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.

Taxation of Gains

Gains realized outside Brazil by a non-Brazilian holder on the disposition of ADSs to another non-Brazilian holder are not currently subject to Brazilian tax. However, according to Law No. 10,833 of December 2003, or Law No. 10,833, the disposition of assets located in Brazil by a non-Brazilian holder, whether to other non-Brazilian holder or Brazilian holders, may become subject to taxation in Brazil. Although we believe that the ADSs do not fall within the definition of assets located in Brazil for the purposes of Law No. 10,833, considering the general and unclear scope of it and the lack of judicial court ruling in respect thereto, we are unable to predict whether such understanding will ultimately prevail in the courts of Brazil.

Thus, the gain on disposition of ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder to a resident in Brazil (or even to a non Brazilian resident in case the argument above does not prevail) may be subject to income tax in Brazil according to the rules described below for ADSs or the tax rules applicable to common shares, as applicable.

The withdrawal of ADSs in exchange for common shares is not subject to Brazilian income tax provided that the regulatory rules are appropriately observed in respect to the registration of the investment before the Central Bank of Brazil. The deposit of common shares in exchange for ADSs may be subject to Brazilian capital income tax at the rate of 15% or 25%, in case the non-Brazilian holder is located in a tax haven, i.e. considered to be places which do not impose any income tax at a maximum rate of less than 20% and those where the internal legislation imposes restrictions on disclosure of the shareholding composition or the ownership of the investment ("tax haven holder"), if the acquisition cost of the common shares is lower than (1) the average price per common 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 common shares were sold on that day, the average price on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of common shares were sold in the fifteen trading sessions immediately preceding such deposit. In this case, the difference between the acquisition cost and the average price of the common shares, calculated as above, shall be considered a capital gain.

Gains realized on disposition of common shares, are subject to income tax in Brazil, regardless of whether the sale or the disposition is made by the non-Brazilian holder to a resident or person domiciled in Brazil or not, based on the fact that the common shares could be considered as assets located in Brazil for purposes of Law No. 10,833.

Thus, for purposes of taxation of gains earned in a sale or disposition of common shares carried out on the Brazilian stock exchange (which includes the transactions carried out on the organized over-the-counter market):

- are exempt from income tax when assessed by a 2,689 holder and is not a tax haven holder; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% in any other case, including gains assessed by a non- Brazilian holder that (i) is not a 2,689 holder, or (ii) is a 2,689 holder but is a tax haven holder. In these cases, a withholding income tax of 0.005% shall be applicable and can be offset with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

Any other gains assessed on the disposition of the common shares that are not carried out on the Brazilian stock exchange are subject to income tax a rate of 15%, except for tax haven holder which, in this case, is subject to income tax at a rate of 25%. In case these gains are related to transactions conducted on the Brazilian non-organized over-the-counter market with intermediation, the withholding income tax of 0.005% shall also be applicable and can be 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 ourselves, the positive difference between the amount effectively received by the non-Brazilian holder and the corresponding acquisition cost is treated, for tax purposes, as capital gain derived from disposition of common shares not carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange market, and is therefore subject to income tax at the rate of 15% or 25%, as the case may be.

Any exercise of preemptive rights relating to the common shares will not be subject to Brazilian income tax. Any gain on the sale or assignment of preemptive rights relating to the common shares by a non-Brazilian holder of common shares or ADSs will be subject to Brazilian taxation at the same rate applicable to the sale or disposition of common shares.

There is no assurance that the current preferential treatment for holders of ADSs and non-Brazilian holders of common shares under Resolution 2,689 will continue in the future or that it will not be changed in the future. Reductions in the rate of tax provided for by Brazil's tax treaties do not apply to the tax on gains realized on sales or exchange of common shares.

Interest Attributed to Shareholders' Equity

Distribution of an interest on equity charge attributed to shareholders' equity in respect of the common shares or ADSs as an alternative form of payment to shareholders, including non-Brazilian holders of common shares or ADSs, is subject to Brazilian withholding income tax at the rate of 15% or 25%, in case of a tax-haven holder. Such payments, subject to certain limitations and requirements, are deductible for Brazilian income tax purposes.

Other Brazilian Taxes

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

Tax on Bank Account Transactions ("CPMF")

As a general rule, CPMF is imposed on debits to bank accounts at a current rate of 0.38% . Therefore, transactions by the depository or by holders of common shares which involve the transfer of Brazilian currency through Brazilian financial institutions shall be subject to the CPMF tax. In some cases, transactions involving foreign investors may be exempt from CPMF. Additionally, according to article 4th of Provisory Measure No. 281, dated as of February 15th, 2006, the CPMF rate is reduced to zero on withdrawals from bank accounts used to buy common shares in a public offering, provided the public offering is registered with the CVM and that the issuer is listed in the Brazilian stock exchange. This Provisory Measure is currently valid but it must be approved by the Congress before it becomes a law and is signed by the President. The responsibility for the collection of the CPMF tax is borne by the financial institution that carries out the relevant financial transaction.

In addition, according to section 4 of the Provisory Measure No. 281, dated February 15, 2006, which is currently in effect, the CPMF rate is reduced to zero on withdrawals from bank accounts used to buy common shares in a public offering, provided that (i) the public offering is registered with the CVM and (ii) the issuer is listed on the Brazilian stock exchange. In order for the effects of this Provisory Measure to become permanent, it must be converted into law pursuant to the applicable legal procedures.

Taxation of Foreign Exchange Transactions (IOF/Câmbio)

IOF/Câmbio may be imposed on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currency (e.g., for purposes of paying dividends and interest) and on the conversion of foreign currency into Brazilian currency. Except under specific circumstances, the rate of IOF/Câmbio tax on such conversions is currently 0%, but the Minister of Finance has the legal power to increase at any time the rate to a maximum of 25%, but only in relation to future transactions.

Tax on Bonds and Securities Transactions (IOF/Títulos)

The IOF/Títulos may be imposed on any transactions involving bonds and securities, including those carried out on Brazilian futures and commodities stock exchanges. As a general rule, the rate of this tax for transactions involving common shares or ADSs is currently zero, although the executive branch may increase such rate up to 1.5% per day, but only with respect to future transactions.

United States Taxation

The discussion below is applicable to you only if you are a U.S. holder that is not domiciled in Brazil (or domiciled or resident in a tax haven jurisdiction) for purposes of Brazilian taxation and, in the case of a holder of common shares, that has registered its investment in common shares with the Central Bank as a U.S. dollar investment. A U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of a common share or ADS that is:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation or partnership created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision of the United States;
- an estate the income of which is subject to United States 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 United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

Except where noted, this summary deals only with common shares or ADSs held as capital assets and does not deal with special situations, such as those of banks, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings, financial institutions, tax-exempt entities, insurance companies, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, persons holding common shares or ADSs as part of a hedging, integrated, conversion or constructive sale transaction or a straddle, persons liable for alternative minimum tax, investors in a pass-through entity, persons owning 10% or more of our voting stock, or persons whose “functional currency” is not the U.S. dollar. Furthermore, this discussion set forth under “United States Taxation” is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be repealed, revoked or modified so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. In addition, such summary is based, in part, upon representations made by the Depositary to us and assumes that the deposit agreement, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

If a partnership holds common shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding common shares or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisors.

ADSs

In general, for United States federal income tax purposes, U.S. holders of ADSs will be treated as the owners of the underlying common shares that are represented by such ADSs. Deposits or withdrawals of common shares by U.S. holders for ADSs will not be subject to United States federal income tax. However, the United States Treasury has expressed concerns that parties involved in transactions wherein depositary shares are pre-released may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by the holders of ADSs. Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Brazilian taxes described herein could be affected by future actions that may be taken by the United States Treasury.

Taxation of Dividends

The gross amount of distributions paid to you (including amounts withheld by the Brazilian taxing authority, if any, and any payments of interest on shareholders' equity, as described above under "*Brazilian Tax Considerations*") will be treated as dividend income, to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles. Such income may be included in your gross income as ordinary income when actually or constructively received by you, in the case of common shares, or when actually or constructively received by the Depositary, in the case of ADSs. Such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code. To the extent that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, 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 (thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized on a subsequent disposition 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.

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 received by you, in the case of common shares, or by the Depositary, in the case of ADSs, regardless of whether the *reais* are converted into U.S. dollars. If the *reais* received as a dividend are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, you will have a 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 the *reais* will be treated as United States source ordinary income or loss.

Certain dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. Holders through taxable years beginning on or before 31 December 2010 are subject to a reduced maximum tax rate of 15% so long as (i) specified holding period requirements are met, (ii) the U.S. Holder is not under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (iii) the company paying the dividend is a "qualified foreign corporation" and (iv) the company is not a passive foreign investment company for U.S. federal income tax purposes (a "PFIC") in the year of distribution or the prior year. We do not believe that we were classified as a PFIC for our prior taxable year nor do we expect to be classified as a PFIC. We generally will be treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to our ADSs. You should consult your own advisor about the application of this rate to dividends paid directly on common shares.

Subject to certain limitations, Brazilian withholding taxes on dividends, if any, may be treated as foreign taxes eligible for credit against a U.S. holder's United States federal income tax liability. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on our common shares will be treated as income from sources outside the United States. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. Special rules apply to certain individuals whose foreign source income during the taxable year consists entirely of "qualified passive income" and whose creditable foreign taxes paid or accrued during the taxable year do not exceed US\$300 (US\$600 in the case of a joint return). Further, a U.S. holder that (i) has held common shares or ADSs for less than a specific minimum period during which it is not protected from risk of loss or (ii) is obligated to make payments related to the dividends will not be allowed a foreign tax credit for foreign taxes imposed on dividends paid on common shares or ADSs. In addition, a U.S. holder that holds the shares in certain arrangements in which the U.S. holder's expected economic profits are insubstantial may not be allowed a foreign tax credit for such foreign taxes. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. You should consult your tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

Taxation of Capital Gains

For United States federal income tax purposes, you generally will recognize taxable gain or loss on any sale, exchange or other disposition of a common share or ADS in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized for the common share or ADS and your adjusted tax basis in the common share or ADS, determined in U.S. dollars. Such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss. The capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of sale, exchange or other disposition you have held our common shares or ADSs for more than one year. Capital gains of individuals derived with respect to capital assets held for more than one year are eligible for reduced rates of taxation depending upon the holding period of such capital assets.

The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Any gain or loss recognized by you will generally be treated as United States source gain or loss. Consequently, a U.S. holder may not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from Brazilian tax imposed, if any, on the disposition of a common share or ADS unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income treated as derived from foreign sources.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to dividends in respect of our common shares or ADSs or the proceeds received on the sale, exchange, or redemption of our ADSs, in each case to the extent treated as being paid within the United States (and in certain cases, outside of the United States) to you unless you establish you are an exempt recipient (such as a corporation), and backup withholding may apply to such amounts if you do not establish you are an exempt recipient and you fail to provide a correct taxpayer identification number. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to you will be allowed as a refund or credit against your United States federal income tax liability provided you timely furnish the required information to the Internal Revenue Service.

Documents on display

We are subject to the periodic reporting and other informational requirements of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Accordingly, we are required to file reports and other information with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. You may inspect and copy reports and other information filed by us at the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of these materials upon written request from the Public Reference Section of the Commission at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20549 at prescribed rates. You may also inspect this material at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. In addition to the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission and the New York Stock Exchange, you may obtain a copy of the annual report, upon written request from the depositary for our ADSs at its corporate trust office located at 101 Barclay Street, New York, New York 10286.

We also furnish to the depositary annual reports in English including audited annual financial statements and unaudited quarterly financial statements in English for each of the first three quarters of the fiscal year. We also furnish to the depositary English translations or summaries of all notices of shareholders' meetings and other reports and communications that are made generally available to holders of common shares.