

Under current Brazilian legislation, the Brazilian government may impose temporary restrictions on remittances of foreign capital abroad in the event of a serious imbalance or an anticipated serious imbalance of Brazil's balance of payments. See "Item 3. Key Information—3D. Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Our Common Shares and the ADSs – If you surrender ADSs and withdraw common shares, you risk forfeiting Brazilian tax advantages and losing the ability to timely remit foreign currency abroad."

10E. Taxation

The following is a summary of certain Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common shares or the ADSs by an investor that holds such common shares or ADSs. This summary does not purport to address all material tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common shares or the ADSs, does not take into account the specific circumstances of any particular investor and does not address certain investors that may be subject to special tax rules.

This summary is based on the tax laws of the United States and Brazil, as in effect on the date of this annual report, which are subject to change (or changes in interpretation), possibly with retroactive effect. In addition, this summary is based in part upon the representations of the ADS depository and the assumption that each obligation in our deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms.

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

Prospective investors are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the Brazilian and U.S. federal, state and local tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common shares and the 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 ("Non-Resident Holder"). It is based on Brazilian law as currently in effect. Any change in such law may change the consequences described below, possibly with retroactive effect. This discussion does not specifically address all of the Brazilian tax considerations applicable to any particular Non-Resident Holder. Each Non-Resident Holder of common shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisor concerning the Brazilian tax consequences of an investment in our common shares or the ADSs.

A Non-Resident Holder of ADSs may withdraw them in exchange for our common shares in Brazil. Pursuant to Brazilian law, the Non-Resident Holder may invest in common shares under CMN Resolution 4,373 (a "4,373 Holder").

Taxation of Dividends and Interest on Shareholders' Equity

Dividends, including stock dividends and other dividends, paid by us (i) to the ADS depository in respect of the common shares underlying the ADSs or (ii) to a Non-Resident Holder in respect of the common shares, are currently not subject to Brazilian withholding income tax, as far as such amounts are related to profits generated on or after January 1, 1996. We do not have any profits generated prior to January 1, 1996.

Since 1996, Brazilian companies have been permitted to pay limited amounts of interest on shareholders' equity to holders of equity securities and to treat those payments as a deductible expense for purposes of their Brazilian income tax and social contribution on net profits tax basis. For tax purposes, this interest is limited to the daily *pro rata* variation of the TJLP, as determined by the Central Bank from time to time, multiplied by the sum of determined net equity accounts of the Brazilian company, and the amount of the deduction may not exceed the greater of (i) 50% of the net income (before taking into account the amounts attributable to shareholders as interest on shareholders' equity and the provision of corporate income tax but after the deduction of the provision of the social contribution on net profits) related to the period in respect of which the payment is made; or (ii) 50% of the sum of retained profits and profits reserves as of the date of the beginning of the fiscal year in respect of which the payment is made. Payments of interest on shareholders' equity are decided by the shareholders on the basis of the recommendations of our board of directors.

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 a tax haven.

For this purpose, a “tax haven” or “low-tax regime” is a country or location (i) that does not impose income tax, (ii) where the income tax rate is lower than 20% or (iii) where the local legislation imposes restrictions on disclosing the shareholding composition or ownership of the investment (each, a “Tax Haven Jurisdiction”). Ordinance No. 488, dated November 28, 2014, reduced to 17% the maximum income tax rate that may be imposed by a given jurisdiction for characterization of a Tax Haven Jurisdiction, as long as the jurisdiction complies with international tax transparency standards. Subsequently, tax authorities provided that compliance with such standards requires: (a) signature of or conclusion of negotiation to sign a treaty or agreement allowing the exchange of information related to identification of income beneficiaries, corporate structure, ownership of goods or rights or economic transactions and (b) commitment to the criteria defined in international anti-tax evasion forums of which Brazil is a member. Tax authorities regularly issue a list of jurisdictions which are considered Tax Haven Jurisdictions. This list is currently set forth in Normative Instruction No. 1,037/10, as amended.

These payments of interest on shareholders’ equity may be included as part of any mandatory dividend. To the extent payment of interest on shareholders’ equity is included, the company may be required to distribute to shareholders an additional amount to ensure that the net amount received by them, after payment of the applicable withholding income tax, *plus* the amount of declared dividends, is at least equal to the mandatory dividend.

No assurance can be given that our board of directors will not recommend that future distributions of income should be made by means of interest on shareholders’ equity instead of dividends.

Taxation of Gains

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

- are exempt, when realized by a Non-Resident Holder that (i) is a 4,373 Holder and (ii) is not resident or domiciled in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction;
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% in case of gains realized by (i) a Non-Resident Holder that (x) is not a 4,373 Holder and (y) is not resident or domiciled in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction; or (ii) a Non-Resident Holder that (x) is a 4,373 Holder and (y) is resident or domiciled in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 25% in case of gains realized by a Non-Resident Holder that (i) is not a 4,373 Holder and (ii) is resident or domiciled in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction.

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

According to Law No. 10,833/03, the gains recognized on a disposition of assets located in Brazil, such as our common shares, by a Non-Resident Holder, are subject to withholding income tax in Brazil. This rule is applicable regardless of whether the disposition is conducted in Brazil or abroad and/or if the disposition is or is not made to an individual or entity resident or domiciled in Brazil.

Withholding income tax of 0.005% will apply and can be offset against any income tax due on the capital gain. Such withholding does not apply to a 4,373 Holder that is not resident or domiciled in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction.

Any other gains realized on the disposition of common shares that are not carried out on the Brazilian stock exchange:

- are subject to income tax at rates varying from 15% to 22.5%, depending on the total amount of gains within two consecutive fiscal years (see table below) when realized by any Non-Resident Holder that is not resident or domiciled in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction, whether or not such holder is a 4,373 Holder; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 25% when realized by a Non-Resident Holder that is resident or domiciled in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction, whether or not such holder is a 4,373 Holder.

The capital gains rates described above, varying from 15% to 22.5%, are determined according to the following table:

Capital Gains Tax Rate	Threshold (total gains on the sale of the same rights within two fiscal years)
15%	Total gains below R\$5 million
17.5%	Total gains above R\$5 million, but below R\$10 million
20%	Total gains above R\$10 million, but below R\$30 million
22.5%	Total gains above R\$30 million

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

The statutory definition of a Tax Haven Jurisdiction for the purpose of income taxation on gains should differ depending on whether or not a holder is a 4,373 Holder. In the case of a 4,373 Holder, the definition of Tax Haven Jurisdiction should not comprise jurisdictions where the local legislation imposes restrictions on disclosing the shareholding composition or ownership of the investment. However, the list provided for in Normative Instruction No. 1,037/10 does not seem to differ from the Tax Haven Jurisdiction definition for the purposes of 4,373 Holders.

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

In the case of a redemption of common shares or a capital reduction, the positive difference between the amount received by the Non-Resident Holder and the acquisition cost of the common shares redeemed in *realis* is treated as capital gain derived from the sale or exchange of shares not carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange market and is therefore subject to income tax at rates of up to 25%.

Sale of ADSs by U.S. Holders to Other Non-Residents in Brazil

As discussed above, pursuant to Law No. 10,833, the sale of assets located in Brazil involving Non-Resident Holders is subject to Brazilian withholding income tax, regardless if the purchaser is a Brazilian resident or not. We believe that the ADSs do not fall within the definition of assets located in Brazil for the purposes of Law No. 10,833, and, thus, should not be subject to Brazilian withholding tax. However, due to the lack of any administrative or judicial guidance, there is no assurance that this interpretation would prevail. If the ADSs are deemed to be assets located in Brazil, gains recognized by a Non-Brazilian Holder from the sale or other disposition to either a non-resident or a resident in Brazil may be subject to income tax in Brazil according to the rules described in “--Taxation of Gains” above.

Gains on the Exchange of ADSs for Common Shares

The withdrawal of ADSs in exchange for common shares is not subject to Brazilian income tax, assuming compliance with applicable regulation regarding the registration of the investment with the Central Bank.

Gains on the Exchange of Common Shares for ADSs

The deposit of common shares in exchange for ADSs may be subject to Brazilian withholding income tax on capital gains if the amount previously registered with the Central Bank as a foreign investment in common shares or, in the case of other market investors under CMN Resolution 4,373, the acquisition cost of the common shares, as the case may be, is lower than:

- the average price per common share on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of such common shares were sold on the day of deposit; or
- 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 during the 15 preceding trading sessions.

The difference between the amount previously registered, or the acquisition cost, as the case may be, and the average price of the common shares, calculated as set forth above, is considered a capital gain subject to income tax at rates up to 25%. In some circumstances, there may be arguments that this tax treatment is not applicable in the case of 4,373 Holders that are not located in a Tax Haven Jurisdiction.

Tax on Financial Transactions

The Tax on Financial Transactions (*Imposto sobre Operações de Crédito, Câmbio e Seguro ou relativas a Títulos ou Valores Mobiliários*), or “IOF,” is imposed on foreign exchange, securities, credit and insurance transactions.

IOF on Foreign Exchange Transactions

Tax on foreign exchange transactions, or “IOF/Exchange,” may be levied on foreign exchange transactions (conversion of foreign currency in *reais* and conversion of *reais* into foreign currency), affecting either or both the inflow or outflow of investments. Currently, the general IOF/Exchange rate applicable to foreign exchange transactions is 0.38%.

The Brazilian government may increase the rate of the IOF/Exchange to a maximum rate of 25% of the amount of the foreign exchange transaction at any time, but such an increase will only apply in respect of future foreign exchange transactions. Currently, for most foreign exchange transactions related to investments in common shares, the IOF/Exchange rate is zero.

IOF on Bonds and Securities Transactions

IOF may also be levied on transactions involving bonds and securities, or “IOF/Securities”, including those carried out on Brazilian stock, futures or commodities exchanges. The rate of the IOF/Securities applicable to most transactions involving common shares is currently zero. The Brazilian government may increase the rate of the IOF/Exchange up to 1.5% per day at any time, but such an increase will only apply in respect of future transactions.

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-Resident Holder, except for gift and inheritance taxes which are levied by some states of Brazil on gifts made or inheritances bestowed by individuals or entities not resident or domiciled in Brazil to individuals or entities resident or domiciled within that state in Brazil. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of common shares or ADSs.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The summary discussion below is applicable to you only if you are a “U.S. Holder” or a “Non-U.S. Holder” (both as defined below) that holds the common shares or ADSs as “capital assets” (generally property held for investment) within the meaning of Section 1221 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). This summary is based upon the Code, its legislative history, U.S. Treasury Department regulations, administrative pronouncements of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) and judicial decisions, all as in effect on the date hereof, and all of which are subject to change (possibly with retroactive effect) and to differing interpretations. This summary does not describe any implications under state, local or non-U.S. tax law, or any aspect of U.S. federal tax law (such as estate tax, gift tax, alternative minimum tax or Medicare tax on net investment income) other than U.S. federal income taxation.

This summary does not purport to address all the material U.S. federal income tax consequences that may be relevant to the holders of our common shares or the ADSs, and does not take into account the specific circumstances of any particular investors, some of which (such as tax-exempt entities, banks or other financial institutions, insurance companies, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings, regulated investment companies, real estate investment trusts, partnerships and other pass-through entities, U.S. expatriates, investors that own, have owned or are treated as owning, directly, indirectly or constructively 10% or more of our stock by vote or value, “controlled foreign corporations”, certain investors who file applicable financial statements required to recognize income when the associated revenue is reflected on such financial statements, investors that hold our common shares or the ADSs as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion or constructive sale transaction or other integrated transaction and persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar) may be subject to special tax rules.

For purposes of this discussion, a U.S. Holder is any beneficial owner of common shares or ADSs that is (i) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income tax without regard to its source, or (iv) a trust if a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or if the trust validly elects under applicable U.S. Treasury Department regulations to be taxed as a U.S. person. A “Non-U.S. Holder” is any beneficial owner of common shares or ADSs that is an individual, corporation, estate or trust who is neither a U.S. Holder nor a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If a partnership (or any other entity taxable as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds our common shares or the ADSs, the U.S. federal tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. A prospective investor who is a partner of a partnership holding our common shares or the ADSs should consult its own tax advisor.

In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, holders of ADRs evidencing ADSs will be treated as the owners of the common shares represented by those ADSs, and exchanges of common shares for ADSs, and ADSs for common shares, will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Taxation of Dividends

U.S. Holders

Under the U.S. federal income tax laws, and subject to the passive foreign investment company (“PFIC”) rules discussed below, U.S. Holders will include in gross income, as dividend income, the gross amount of any distribution paid by us (including (i) payments considered “interest” in respect of shareholders’ equity under Brazilian law, (ii) amounts withheld in respect of Brazilian taxes and (iii) any additional amounts payable in respect of such withholding taxes as described above under “--Brazilian Tax Considerations–Taxation of Dividends and Interest on Shareholders’ Equity”) out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes) when the distribution is actually or constructively received by the U.S. Holder, in the case of common shares, or by the ADS depository, in the case of ADSs. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles, will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder’s adjusted tax basis in the common shares or the ADSs and thereafter as capital gain, which will be either long-term or short-term capital gain depending on whether the U.S. Holder held common shares or ADSs for more than one year. We do not intend to maintain calculations of our earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles and, unless and until such calculations are made, U.S. Holders should assume all distributions are made out of earnings and profits and constitute dividend income.

The dividend income will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations in respect of dividends received from other U.S. corporations. Subject to certain exceptions for short-term and hedged positions, certain non-corporate U.S. Holders (including individuals) may qualify for a maximum 20% rate of tax in respect of “qualified dividend income” received. Dividend income with respect to the ADSs will be qualified dividend income, *provided* that, in the year that a non-corporate U.S. Holder receives the dividend, the ADSs are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States, and we were not in the year prior to the year in which the dividend was paid, and are not in the year in which the dividend is paid, a PFIC. Based on existing IRS guidance, it is not entirely clear whether dividends received with respect to our common shares not held through ADSs will be treated as qualified dividend income, because our common shares are not themselves listed on a U.S. exchange.

The amount of the dividend distribution includible in gross income of a U.S. Holder will be the U.S. dollar value of the *real* payments made, determined at the spot *real*/U.S. dollar rate on the date such dividend distribution is includible in the gross income of the U.S. Holder, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. A U.S. Holder should not recognize any foreign currency gain or loss in respect of such dividend if such *reais* are converted into U.S. dollars on the date received by the U.S. Holder. If the *reais* are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, however, gain or loss may be recognized upon a subsequent sale or other disposition of the *reais*. Such foreign currency gain or loss, if any, will be treated as ordinary income or loss from sources within the United States and will not be eligible for the special tax rate applicable to qualified dividend income. U.S. Holders should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the treatment of any foreign currency gain or loss if any *reais* received as a dividend on our common shares or the ADSs is not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt.

Dividends received by most U.S. Holders will constitute foreign source “passive income” for foreign tax credit purposes. For purposes of the U.S. foreign tax credit limitation, foreign source income is separated into different “baskets,” and the credit for foreign taxes on income in any basket is limited to the U.S. federal income tax allocable to such income.

Subject to limitations under U.S. federal income tax law concerning credits or deductions for foreign income taxes and certain exceptions for short-term and hedged positions, any Brazilian income tax withheld from dividends paid by us may be treated as foreign income tax eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability, *provided* that the withholding tax constitutes a “covered withholding tax” under recent U.S. regulations (or at a U.S. Holder’s election, may be deducted in computing taxable income, *provided* that, in the case of any “covered withholding tax”, the U.S. Holder has elected to deduct all foreign income taxes

paid or accrued for the relevant taxable year). The rules with respect to foreign tax credits are complex and recent U.S. regulations have imposed additional requirements that must be met for a foreign tax to be creditable (including requirements that a “covered withholding tax” be imposed on nonresidents in lieu of a generally applicable tax that satisfies the regulatory definition of an “income tax”, which may be unclear or difficult to determine). U.S. Holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

The U.S. Treasury Department has expressed concern that intermediaries in connection with depositary arrangements may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by U.S. persons who are holders of depositary shares. Accordingly, investors should be aware that the discussion above regarding the availability of foreign tax credits for Brazilian income tax withheld from dividends paid with respect to common shares represented by ADSs could be affected by future action taken by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Distributions of additional common shares to U.S. Holders with respect to their common shares or ADSs that are made as part of a *pro rata* distribution to all our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Non-U.S. Holders

Dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder in respect of common shares or ADSs will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless those dividends are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States by the Non-U.S. Holder (or are attributable to a permanent establishment maintained in the United States by the Non-U.S. Holder, if an applicable income tax treaty so requires as a condition for the Non-U.S. Holder to be subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net basis in respect of income from common shares or ADSs), in which case the Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in respect of the dividends in the same manner as a U.S. Holder. Any such effectively connected dividends received by a corporate Non-U.S. Holder may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional “branch profits tax” (at a 30% rate or at a reduced rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty).

Taxation of Capital Gains

U.S. Holders

Subject to the PFIC rules discussed below, upon a sale, redemption or other taxable disposition of common shares or ADSs, a U.S. Holder will recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized (before deduction of any Brazilian tax) and the U.S. Holder’s adjusted tax basis (determined in U.S. dollars) in the common shares or ADSs. Generally, a non-corporate U.S. Holder’s gain or loss may be subject to preferential rates where the property is held for more than one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

Capital gain or loss, if any, realized by a U.S. Holder on the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of common shares or ADSs generally will be treated as U.S. source gain or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. In the case of a gain from the disposition of a share or ADS that is subject to Brazilian income tax (see “—Brazilian Tax Considerations—Taxation of Gains”), the U.S. Holder may not be able to benefit from the foreign tax credit for that Brazilian income tax (i.e., because the gain from the disposition would be U.S. source income). Under recent U.S. regulations mentioned above, Brazilian withholding tax imposed on such U.S. source gain may not constitute a creditable tax. Moreover, even if the tax is a creditable tax, the U.S. Holder may be unable to benefit unless it can apply the credit against U.S. federal income tax payable on other income from foreign sources from the relevant foreign tax basket. Alternatively, the U.S. Holder may be able to take a deduction for the Brazilian income tax if it does not elect to claim a foreign income tax credit for any foreign taxes paid or accrued during the taxable year.

Non-U.S. Holders

A Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax in respect of gain recognized on a sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of common shares or ADSs unless:

- the gain is effectively connected with a trade or business of the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States (or is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained in the United States by that Non-U.S. Holder, if an applicable income tax treaty so requires as a condition for that Non-U.S. Holder to be subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net basis in respect of gain from the sale or other disposition of the common shares or ADSs); or

- in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder who is an individual, that Non-U.S. Holder is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale and certain other conditions apply.

Effectively connected gains realized by a corporate Non-U.S. Holder may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to an additional branch profits tax (at a 30% rate or at a reduced rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty).

Passive Foreign Investment Companies

Based on current estimates of our gross income, gross assets and the nature of our business, we believe that our common shares and the ADSs should not be treated as stock of a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. There can be no assurances in this regard (and it is possible the IRS could reach a contrary conclusion), however, because the application of the relevant rules is complex and involves some uncertainty. The PFIC determination is made annually and is based on the portion of our assets and income that is characterized as passive under the PFIC rules. Moreover, our business plans may change, which may affect the PFIC determination in the current or any future years.

In general, we will be a PFIC with respect to a U.S. Holder if, for any taxable year in which the U.S. Holder held ADSs or common shares, either (i) at least 75% of our gross income for the taxable year is passive income or (ii) at least 50% of the value (determined on the basis of a quarterly average) of our assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income. For this purpose, passive income generally includes, among other things, dividends, interest, royalties, rents (other than certain rents and royalties derived in the active conduct of a trade or business), annuities and gains from assets that produce passive income. 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 assets of the other corporation, and as receiving directly our proportionate share of the other corporation's income.

If we are treated as a PFIC, a U.S. Holder that did not make a "mark-to-market election" or "QEF election," each as described below, would be subject to special rules with respect to (a) any gain realized on the sale or other disposition of common shares or ADSs and (b) any "excess distribution" by us to the U.S. Holder (generally, any distributions to the U.S. Holder in respect of the common shares or ADSs during a single taxable year that are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions received by the U.S. Holder with respect to the common shares or ADSs during the three preceding taxable years or, if shorter, the U.S. Holder's holding period for the common shares or ADSs). Under these rules, (i) the gain or excess distribution would be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder's holding period for the common shares or ADSs, (ii) the amount allocated to the taxable year in which the gain or excess distribution was realized would be taxable as ordinary income, (iii) the amount allocated to each prior year, with certain exceptions, would be subject to tax at the highest tax rate in effect for that year and (iv) the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax would be imposed in respect of the tax attributable to each such prior year.

If we are treated as a PFIC and, at any time, we invest in non-U.S. corporations that are classified as PFICs (each, a "Subsidiary PFIC"), U.S. Holders generally will be deemed to own, and also would be subject to the PFIC rules with respect to, their indirect ownership interest in that Subsidiary PFIC. If we are treated as a PFIC, a U.S. Holder could incur liability for the deferred tax and interest charge described above if either (i) we receive a distribution from, or dispose of all or part of our interest in, the Subsidiary PFIC or (ii) the U.S. Holder disposes of all or part of its common shares or ADSs.

The special PFIC tax rules described above will not apply to a U.S. Holder if the U.S. Holder makes an election (i) to "mark-to-market" with respect to the common shares or ADSs (a "mark-to-market election") or (ii) to have us treated as a "qualified electing fund" (a "QEF election"). The QEF election is not available to holders unless we agree to comply with certain reporting requirements and provide the required annual information statements. The QEF and mark-to-market elections only apply to taxable years in which the U.S. Holder's common shares or ADSs are treated as stock of a PFIC. Our ADR depositary has agreed to distribute the necessary information to registered holders of ADSs.

A U.S. Holder may make a mark-to-market election if the common shares or ADSs are "regularly traded" on a "qualified exchange." Under applicable U.S. Treasury Department regulations, a "qualified exchange" includes a national securities exchange, such as the NYSE, that is registered with the SEC or the national market system established under the Exchange Act. Also, under applicable U.S. Treasury Department Regulations, PFIC securities traded on a qualified exchange are regularly traded on such exchange for any calendar year during which such stock is traded, other than in *de minimis* quantities, on at least 15 days during each calendar quarter. We cannot assure you that the ADSs will be eligible for a mark-to-market election.

A U.S. Holder that makes a mark-to-market election with respect to its ADSs must include for each taxable year in which the U.S. Holder's common shares or ADSs are treated as shares of a PFIC, as ordinary income, an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the common shares or ADSs at the close of the taxable year over the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADSs, and is allowed an ordinary loss for the excess, if any, of the adjusted tax basis over the fair market value of the common shares or ADSs at the close of the taxable year, but only to the extent of the amount of previously included mark-to-market inclusions (not offset by prior mark-to-market losses). These amounts of ordinary income, and any gain recognized on the sale, redemption or other taxable disposition of an ADS with respect to which such an election is in place, will not be eligible for the favorable tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income or long-term capital gains. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in the common shares or ADSs will be adjusted to reflect any income or loss amounts on its annual inclusions. Although a U.S. Holder may be eligible to make a mark-to-market election with respect to its common shares or ADSs, no such election may be made with respect to the stock of any Subsidiary PFIC that such U.S. Holder is treated as owning, because such Subsidiary PFIC stock is not marketable. Thus, the mark-to-market election will not be effective to avoid all of the adverse tax consequences described above with respect to any Subsidiary PFICs. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability and advisability of making a mark-to-market election with respect to their common shares or ADSs based on their particular circumstances.

A U.S. Holder that makes a QEF election will be currently taxable on its *pro rata* share of our ordinary earnings and net capital gain (at ordinary income and long-term capital gain rates, respectively) for each of our taxable years, regardless of whether we distributed the income and gain. The U.S. Holder's basis in the common shares or ADSs will be increased to reflect taxed but undistributed income. Distributions of income that had previously been taxed will result in a corresponding reduction of tax basis in the common shares or ADSs and will not be taxed again as a distribution to the U.S. Holder.

In addition, notwithstanding any election that a U.S. Holder makes with regard to the common shares or ADSs, dividends that a non-corporate U.S. Holder receives from us will not constitute qualified dividend income if we are a PFIC either in the taxable year of the distribution or in the preceding taxable year.

Special rules apply with respect to the calculation of the amount of the foreign tax credit with respect to excess distributions by a PFIC or, in certain cases, QEF inclusions.

A U.S. Holder who owns common shares or ADSs during any taxable year that we are a PFIC in excess of certain *de minimis* amounts and fails to qualify for certain other exemptions would be required to file IRS Form 8621. In addition, under certain circumstances, the temporary regulations also require a "United States person" (as such term is defined in the Code) that owns an interest in a PFIC as an indirect shareholder through one or more United States persons to file Form 8621 for any taxable year during which such indirect shareholder is treated as receiving an excess distribution in connection with the ownership or disposition of such interest, or reports income pursuant to a mark-to-market or QEF election, among other circumstances. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the PFIC rules to the common shares or ADSs.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

U.S. Holders

Dividends paid on, and proceeds from the sale, redemption or other taxable disposition of common shares or ADSs received by a U.S. Holder generally will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding, unless, in the case of backup withholding, the U.S. Holder provides an accurate taxpayer identification number or in either case otherwise establishes an exemption. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. The amount of any backup withholding collected from a payment to a U.S. Holder will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the U.S. Holder to a refund, provided that certain required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Non-U.S. Holders

If common shares are held by a Non-U.S. Holder through the non-U.S. office of a non-U.S. related broker or financial institution, backup withholding and information reporting generally would not be required. Information reporting, and possibly backup withholding, may apply if the common shares are held by a Non-U.S. Holder through a U.S., or U.S.-related, broker or financial institution, or the U.S. office of a non-U.S. broker or financial institution and the Non-U.S. Holder fails to provide appropriate information. Information reporting and backup withholding generally will apply with respect to the ADSs if the Non-U.S. Holder fails to timely provide appropriate information. Non-U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the application of these rules.

“Specified Foreign Financial Asset” Reporting

Owners of “specified foreign financial assets” with an aggregate value in excess of US\$50,000 (and in some circumstances, a higher threshold) may be required to file an information report with respect to such assets with their U.S. federal income tax returns. “Specified foreign financial assets” generally include any financial accounts maintained by non-U.S. financial institutions as well as any of the following, but only if they are not held in accounts maintained by financial institutions: (i) stocks and securities issued by non-U.S. persons, (ii) financial instruments and contracts held for investment that have non-U.S. issuers or counterparties and (iii) interests in non-U.S. entities.

Prospective purchasers should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to their particular situations as well as any additional tax consequences resulting from purchasing, holding or disposing of our common shares or the ADSs, including the applicability and effect of the tax laws of any state, local or foreign jurisdiction, including estate, gift and inheritance laws.

10G. Statement by Experts

Not applicable.

10H. Documents on Display

We are subject to the information requirements of the Exchange Act and, accordingly, file reports and other information with the SEC. Reports and other information filed by us with the SEC may be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can obtain further information about the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at +1 (800) SEC-0330. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also inspect our reports and other information at the offices of the NYSE, 11 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005, on which the ADSs are listed. For further information on obtaining copies of our public filings at the NYSE, you should call +1 (212) 656-5060. We also file financial statements and other periodic reports with the CVM.

10I. Subsidiary Information

Not applicable.

Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are exposed to a number of different market risks arising from our normal business activities. Market risk is the possibility that changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates or commodities prices could adversely affect the value of our financial assets, liabilities, expected future cash flows or earnings. We maintain policies aimed at managing our exposure to these market risks. We may use financial instruments, such as derivatives, in order to achieve the main goals established by our board of directors to minimize our cost of capital and maximize our returns on financial assets, while observing credit and risk parameters, as determined by our board of directors. Derivatives are contracts whose value derives from one or more underlying financial instruments, indexes or prices defined in the contract. We only use well-understood and conventional derivative instruments for these purposes. These include futures and options traded on regulated exchanges and “over-the-counter” swaps, options and forward contracts.

Market Risk Exposures and Market Risk Management

Our treasury department is responsible for managing our market risk exposures. We use internal controls in order to:

- understand market risks;
- reduce our probability of financial losses; and
- reduce the volatility of our financial results.

The principal tools used by our treasury department are:

- *Sensitivity Analysis*. This measures the impact that movements in the price of different market variables, such as interest rates and exchange rates, will have on our earnings and cash flows; and
- *Stress Testing*. This measures the worst possible loss from a set of consistent scenarios to which probabilities are not assigned. The scenarios are deliberately chosen to include extreme changes in interest and currency exchange rates. Following is a discussion of the primary market risk exposures that we face together with an analysis of our exposure to each one.

Interest Rate Risk

We are exposed to interest rate risk on short- and long-term instruments as a result of refinancing of fixed-rate instruments included in our consolidated debt. Consequently, in addition to managing the currency and maturity of our debt, we manage interest costs through a balance between floating rate debt, which has inherently higher risk, and fixed-rate debt. We may use derivatives to achieve the desired ratio between floating-rate debt and fixed-rate debt, which ratio varies according to market conditions.

We are exposed to the following floating interest rates:

- U.S. dollar LIBOR, due to our floating rate U.S. dollar-denominated debt (usually trade finance related) and our cash position held offshore in U.S. dollars, which is invested in short-term instruments;
- TJLP, due to *real*-denominated debt indexed to this interest rate; and
- CDI (benchmark Brazilian *real* overnight rate), due to our cash held in Brazil (onshore cash) and to our CDI indexed debt.

Exposure as of December 31, 2020* (amortization)	Notional amount	Maturities					
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Thereafter
U.S. dollar LIBOR	5,502	1,627	1,516	431	291	369	1,270
U.S. dollar fixed rate	15,686	306	18	16	-	3,348	11,998
CDI	9,356	2,577	2,119	850	580	730	2,599
TJLP	802	61	69	72	72	72	456
Other	1,409	963	125	78	65	71	107

*All figures in millions of reais.

Our cash and cash equivalents were as follows as of the dates presented:

	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2021	Exposure
Cash in reais:	6,484	6,562	CDI
Cash in U.S. dollars:	3,461	9,244	LIBOR

The following table sets forth the average interest rate of our borrowings and financing:

As of December 31, 2021		
	Average interest rate(*)	Total debt (in thousands of R\$)
US\$	5.35%	21,560,865
R\$	10.75%	10,564,312
EUR	1.47%	629,473
		32,754,650

(*) In order to determine the average interest rates for our borrowings and financing agreements with floating rates, we used rates as of December 31, 2021.

We may conduct U.S. dollar futures operations on the B3 or over the counter to ensure the forward purchase or sale of U.S. dollars, which are settled by the difference in contracted R\$/US\$ buy or sell parity against the R\$/US\$ sell or buy parity. The main purpose of these operations is to hedge liabilities indexed to the U.S. dollar from Brazilian *real* fluctuations, which are affected by market, economic, political, regulatory and geopolitical conditions, among others. The gains and losses from these contracts are directly related to U.S. dollar exchange and CDI fluctuations. The following tables set forth the duration of our U.S. dollar and fixed-rate derivatives:

	As of December 31, 2021			
	Functional Currency	Notional Amount	Average Interest	Average Maturity (days)
		(in millions of R\$)		
DI future	<i>Real</i>	-	-	-
Hedge accounting of export	U.S. dollar	2,655	-	
Hedge accounting net investment	Euro	-	-	
CDI-to-U.S. dollar swap	U.S. dollar	67	-	
IPCA-to-CDI interest rate swap	<i>Real</i>	1,000	-	

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

Fluctuations in exchange rates can have significant effects on our operating results. They affect the value of our *real*-denominated assets, the carrying and repayment costs of our *real*-denominated financial liabilities, our *real*-denominated production costs, the cost of *real*-denominated capital items and the prices we receive in the Brazilian market for our finished steel products. We may contract derivatives to manage certain of our net foreign exchange rate exposures, trying to balance our non-*real* denominated assets with our non-*real* denominated liabilities and using derivative instruments to match them. However, at any given time we may have significant foreign currency exchange rate risk exposure.

Our exposure to the U.S. dollar is due to the following contract categories:

- U.S. dollar-denominated debt;
- offshore cash;
- currency derivatives;
- U.S. dollar indexed accounts payable and receivable (usually related to international trade, *i.e.*, imports and exports); and
- offshore investments, which comprise assets purchased offshore and denominated in U.S. dollars on our balance sheet.

The following table sets forth our exposure to U.S. dollar exchange rate risk:

	As of December 31,	
	2020	2021
	(in thousands of R\$)	
U.S. dollar liabilities		
Loans and financing	4,812	3,866
Trade accounts payable	140	614
Advances from customers	-	197
Others	9	10
Total liabilities	4,961	4,687
U.S. dollar assets		
Offshore cash and cash equivalents	665	1,656
Guarantee margin	24	24
Trade accounts receivable	387	212

Other	9	58
Total assets	1,085	1,950
Total U.S. dollar exposure	(3,876)	(2,737)
Cash flow – hedge accounting	3,992	2,655
Exchange rate swap CDI x Dollar	(67)	(67)
Total U.S. dollar net exposure	49	(149)

Our exposure to the euro is due to the following contract categories:

- euro-denominated debt;
- offshore cash;
- euro indexed accounts payable and receivable (usually related to international trade, *i.e.*, imports and exports); and
- offshore investments: assets that we bought offshore and that are denominated in euros on our balance sheet.

The following table sets forth our exposure to euro exchange rate risk:

	As of December 31,	
	2020	2021
	(in millions of R\$)	
Euro liabilities		
Trade accounts payable	9	2
Others	1	1
Total liabilities	10	3
Euro assets		
Offshore cash and cash equivalents	13	75
Trade accounts receivable	3	5
Other	4	-
Total assets	20	80
Total euro exposure	10	77

Offshore Investments

We have capitalized our offshore subsidiaries domiciled in U.S. dollar-based countries with equity investments, and those investments are accounted as U.S. dollar investments. The result is that they are recorded as assets indexed to the U.S. dollar from an earnings perspective.

Commodity Price Risk

Fluctuations in the price of steel, iron ore and some of the commodities used in producing steel, such as zinc, aluminum, tin, coal, coke and energy, can have an impact on our earnings. We may contract derivatives to hedge our exposure to certain commodity price fluctuations.

Sensitivity Analysis

In the Brazilian macroeconomic environment, exchange rate variation is the most significant market risk we face. The U.S. dollar/*real* exchange had an annual volatility of 16.9% from 2019 to 2021.

Sensitivity Analysis of Derivative Financial Instruments and Foreign Exchange Exposure

Scenarios 1 and 2 represent 25% and 50% appreciation of the foreign currency, using the respective closing selling rate as of December 31, 2021, as reported by the Central Bank, as a benchmark.

The currencies used in the sensitivity analysis and the respective scenarios are as follows:

December 31, 2021					
Currency	Exchange rate	Probable scenario	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	
U.S. dollar to <i>real</i>	5.5805	5.0611	6.9756	8.3708	
Euro to <i>real</i>	6.3210	5.7378	7.9013	9.4815	
U.S. dollar to euro	1.1327	1.1337	1.4159	1.6991	

Set forth below are the effects on our income statement of scenarios 1 and 2:

Instruments	Notional	Risk	Probable scenario (*) R\$ (in thousands of R\$)	Scenario 1 R\$	Scenario 2 R\$
Gross exchange position	(2,737,340)	Dollar	1,421,774	(3,818,931)	(7,637,863)
Cash flow hedge accounting	2,655,350	Dollar	(1,379,189)	3,704,545	7,409,090
Exchange rate swap CDI x Dollar	(67,000)	Dollar	34,800	(93,473)	(186,947)
Net exchange position	(148,990)	Dollar	77,385	(207,859)	(415,720)
Net exchange position	77,201	Euro	(45,024)	121,997	243,994

(*) We calculated the probable scenario considering the following variations: 9.31% appreciation of the *real* against the U.S. dollar, 9.23% appreciation of the *real* against the euro and 0.09% depreciation of the euro against the U.S. dollar.

Source: Central Bank as of February 22, 2022.

Sensitivity Analysis of Changes in Interest Rates

Scenarios 1 and 2 represent 25% and 50%, respectively, interest volatility growth as of December 31, 2021, and set forth below are the effects on our balance sheet:

(in thousands of R\$)

Changes in interest rates	% p.a	Assets	Liabilities	Probable scenario*	Impact on profit or loss	
					Scenario 1	Scenario 2
CDI	9.15	3,908,490	(5,778,965)	(2,041,623)	2,084,411	(2,127,198)
TJLP	5.32		(800,884)	(843,491)	(854,143)	(864,794)
Libor	0.34		(5,449,749)	(5,468,210)	(5,472,825)	(5,477,440)

(*) This sensitivity analysis assumes a probable scenario of interest rates as of December 31, 2022, as recorded in our assets and liabilities

Market Price Risk of Our Common Shares

We are exposed to the risk of changes in the market price of our common shares due to investments made and investments recorded at fair value through profit or loss.

Item 12. Description of Securities Other Than Equity Securities

American Depositary Shares

Citibank, N.A., with its principal executive office located at 388 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10013, serves as the depositary for the ADSs. ADR holders are required to pay various fees to the depositary, and the depositary may refuse to provide any service for which a fee is assessed until the applicable fee has been paid.

ADR holders are required to pay the depositary amounts in respect of expenses incurred by the depositary or its agents on behalf of ADR holders, including expenses arising from compliance with applicable law, taxes or other governmental charges, facsimile transmission or conversion of foreign currency into U.S. dollars.

ADR holders are also required to pay additional fees for certain services provided by the depositary, as set forth in the table below.

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Depository service	Fee payable by ADR holders
Issuance and delivery of ADRs, including in connection with share distributions or stock splits	US\$2.00 for each 100 ADSs (or portion thereof)
Deposit of securities, including in respect of share, rights and other distributions	US\$2.00 for each 100 ADSs (or portion thereof)
Withdrawal of deposited securities	US\$5.00 for each 100 ADSs (or portion thereof)

Direct and Indirect Payments by the Depository

The depository reimburses us for certain expenses we incur in connection with the ADR program, subject to a ceiling agreed between us and the depository from time to time. These reimbursable expenses currently include legal and accounting fees, listing fees, investor relations expenses and fees payable to service providers for the distribution of material to ADR holders. For the year ended December 31, 2021, these reimbursements by the predecessor depository, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., were approximately US\$650,000.

Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies

None.

Item 14. Material Modification to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds

None.

PART II

Item 15. Controls and Procedures

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act. Based on this evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer have concluded that, as of December 31, 2021, CSN's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting.

Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer and our audit committee and effected by our board of directors, management and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of our consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with IFRS.

Internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with IFRS and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with the authorization of our management and directors; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect material misstatements on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting established in "Internal Control - Integrated Framework," issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO) of the Treadway Commission (2013). Based on this assessment, we concluded that our internal control over financial reporting is effective as of December 31, 2021.

Attestation Report of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Grant Thornton Auditores Independentes, our independent registered public accounting firm, audited, as of December 31, 2021, our internal control over financial reporting. For Grant Thornton Auditores Independentes' report dated May 17, 2022, see our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In the year ended December 31, 2021, there were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 16. Reserved

16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert

Our audit committee comprises three members and each of them satisfies the audit committee membership independence requirements set forth by the SEC, the NYSE and Brazilian Corporate Law. After reviewing the qualifications of the members of our audit committee, our board of directors has determined that each member of our audit committee qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert," as defined by the SEC.

Our audit committee may be assisted by an external consultant, whenever necessary, that renders financial and consulting services, among others.

16B. Code of Ethics

We adopted a Code of Ethics in 1998, reinforcing our ethical standards and the values that apply to all of our employees, including executive officers and directors.

Our Code of Ethics was last updated in 2016 and copies are distributed to each employee of the organization, to the members of our board of directors and or our audit committee, and each signs a commitment letter, reinforcing their dedication to our established values. Since 2017, our Code of Ethics is available on our intranet to be consulted and accepted by employees electronically. In our governance structure, the compliance area is responsible for our integrity program, which aims to ensure compliance with ethical standards of conduct and transparency. This program includes continuous training for our employees and employees of our third parties, and also monitoring of compliance with laws, regulations, policies and internal standards.

There was no amendment to or waiver from any provision of our Code of Ethics in 2021. Our Code of Ethics is in compliance with the SEC requirements for codes of ethics for senior financial officers. A copy of our Code of Ethics is available on our website at www.csn.com.br.

16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

Our interaction with our independent auditors with respect to the contracting of services unrelated to the external audit is based on principles that preserve the independence of the auditors and are otherwise permissible under applicable rules and regulations. For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2020 and 2021, Grant Thornton Auditores Independentes acted as our independent auditor.

The following table sets forth the services rendered and the related fees:

	Year ended December 31,	
	2020	2021
	<i>(in thousands of R\$)</i>	
Audit fees	6,745	12,267
Audit-related fees	650	1,793
Tax fees		
Total	7,395	14,060

Audit Fees

Audit fees in 2020 and 2021 comprised the aggregate fees billed and billable by our independent auditors in connection with the audit of our consolidated financial statements, reviews of interim financial statements and attestation services that are provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.