

C. Material Contracts

During the past two years, we were not a party to any material contract outside the ordinary course of business.

D. Exchange Controls

The Central Bank is responsible for, among other things, monetary policies and exchange controls in Chile. Appropriate registration of a foreign investment in Chile grants the investor access to the Formal Exchange Market. See “Item 3. Key Information–A. Selected Financial Data–Exchange Rates.” Foreign investments can be registered with the Foreign Investment Committee under Decree Law No. 600 or can be registered with the Central Bank under the Central Bank Act. The Central Bank Act is an organic constitutional law requiring a “special majority” vote of the Chilean Congress to be amended. Since April 18, 2001, all exchange controls in Chile have been eliminated.

Previously, Chilean law mandated that holders of shares of Chilean companies that were not residents of Chile register as foreign investors under one of the foreign investment regimes contemplated by Chilean law in order to receive dividends, sale proceeds or other amounts with respect to their shares remitted outside Chile through the Formal Exchange Market. Under the Foreign Investment Contract (as defined herein), the Depositary, on behalf of ADS holders, is granted access to the Formal Exchange Market to convert cash dividends from Chilean pesos to U.S. dollars and to pay such U.S. dollars to ADS holders outside Chile, net of taxes, and no separate registration by ADR holders is required. As of April 19, 2001, the Central Bank deregulated the Exchange Market, eliminating the need to obtain approval from the Central Bank in order to remit dividends, but at the same time eliminating the possibility of guaranteeing access to the Formal Exchange Market. However, this did not affect the current Foreign Investment Contract, which was signed prior to April 19, 2001, and which still permits access to the Formal Exchange Market based on the prior approval of the Central Bank. Therefore the holders of ADRs of Santander-Chile are still subject to the Foreign Investment Contract, including its clauses referring to the prior exchange rules including the now extinct Chapter XXVI of the Compendium.

E. Taxation

The following discussion summarizes certain Chilean tax and United States federal income tax consequences to beneficial owners arising from the ownership and disposition of our common stock or ADSs. The summary does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all potential Chilean and United States federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to own or dispose of our common stock or ADSs and is not intended as tax advice to any particular investor. This summary does not describe any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, locality or other taxing jurisdiction other than Chile and the United States. There is currently no income tax treaty between the United States and Chile. However, the U.S. government and the government of Chile signed on February 4, 2010 the Proposed Income Tax Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Chile (the “Proposed U.S.-Chile Treaty”), which is now subject to ratification by the U.S. Senate and Chilean Congress. If the Proposed U.S.-Chile Treaty becomes effective, U.S. investors should consult their tax advisers as to the applicability of the treaty in their particular circumstances.

Material Tax Consequences of Owning Shares of Our Common Stock or ADSs**Chilean Taxation**

The following is a summary of certain Chilean tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock or of ADSs evidenced by ADRs by Foreign Holders (as defined herein). The summary does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to own or dispose shares of our common stock or ADSs and does not purport to address the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of whom may be subject to special rules. Holders of shares of our common stock or ADSs are advised to consult their tax advisers concerning the Chilean and other tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of shares of our common stock or of ADSs evidenced by ADRs.

The description of Chilean tax laws set forth below is based on Chilean laws in force as of the date of this Annual Report and can be subject to any changes in such laws occurring after the date of this Annual Report. These

changes can be made on a retroactive basis, but may not be used retroactively against taxpayers who acted in good faith relying on regulations or interpretations that were in force at that moment.

For purposes of this summary, the term “Foreign Holder” means either (1) in the case of an individual, a person who is not resident or domiciled in Chile; or (2) in the case of a legal entity, a legal entity that is not organized under the laws of Chile, unless the shares of our common stock or ADSs are assigned to a branch or a permanent establishment of such entity in Chile. For purposes of Chilean taxation, (a) an individual holder is resident in Chile if he or she has remained in Chile for more than six months in one calendar year, or a total of more than six months in two consecutive fiscal years, and (b) an individual is domiciled in Chile if he or she resides in Chile with the actual or presumptive intent of staying in Chile (intention that can be evidenced by circumstances such as the acceptance of an employment in Chile or the relocation to Chile of his or her family).

The Income Tax Law provides that a Foreign Holder is subject to income taxes on his or her Chilean-sourced income. For these purposes, Chilean source income means earnings from activities performed within Chilean territory or from sale, disposition or other transactions in connection with assets or goods located in Chile. Indirect sale regulations may also attribute sourced Chilean income.

Taxation of Dividends

Cash dividends paid by us with respect to shares of our common stock held by a Foreign Holder, including shares represented by ADSs, will be subject to a 35% Chilean Withholding Tax (“WHT”), which is withheld and paid over by us.

If we have paid Corporate Income Tax (the “CIT”) on the income from which the dividend is paid, a credit for the CIT (reduced, in certain circumstances by a related fiscal debit, as described below) effectively reduces the rate of WHT.

When a credit is available, the WHT is computed by applying the 35% rate to the pre-tax amount needed to fund the dividend and then subtracting from the tentative WHT so determined the amount of CIT actually paid on the pre-tax income. For determining the pre-tax amount of the dividend, the CIT credit will depend on the amounts accumulated in the Accumulated Credit Balance (SAC), at the date of withdrawal or distribution.

In general, 35% of CIT paid on the income from which a dividend is paid gives rise to a fiscal debit owed to the Chilean Treasury at the time the dividend distribution is made to a Foreign Holder. Accordingly, a Foreign Holder generally may apply a net credit equal to only 65% of the CIT to reduce WHT.

However, if the Foreign Holder is a resident of a country with which Chile has a Double Tax Treaty in force, the Foreign Holder may be entitled to apply the entire CIT against WHT otherwise due. Moreover, if the Foreign Holder is a resident of a country with a signed Double Tax Treaty that has not entered into force on January 1, 2017, (as in the case of United States) the Foreign Holder would also be entitled to a 100% CIT credit, without reduction by any related fiscal debit, until December 31, 2021. If at such date the treaty has not entered into force, the Foreign Holder will be subject to the general rules, and hence entitled only to a net credit of 65% of the CIT as described above.

To prove residency in a country with which Chile has a Double Tax Treaty, whether signed or in force, a Foreign Holder must produce a government-issued residence certificate, recognizing the taxpayer as a resident of the corresponding country. Foreign Holders are urged to consult with their tax advisers regarding all requirements to be entitled to the 100% CIT credit.

The effective rate of WHT on dividends paid by us will vary depending upon the rate of CIT. In order to determine the CIT credit available upon dividend distributions, earnings generated during the current year should be allocated first (at the rate in force during the year). Distributions made in excess of current year earnings, would be entitled to use as CIT credit the average rate applied to the accumulated earnings distributed.

The example below illustrates the effective Chilean WHT burden on a cash dividend received by a Foreign Holder, assuming a WHT rate of 35.0%, a statutory CIT rate of 27.0% and a distribution of all of the net proceeds available after payment of the CIT.

100% Credit available Taxable income	U.S.\$100
CIT (27.0% of U.S.\$100)	(27.0)
Net proceeds available	73.0
Dividend payment	73.0
Withholding Tax (35.0% of the sum of the dividend (U.S.\$73.0) and the available CIT credit (U.S.\$27.0))	35.0
CIT credit	(27.0)
Payable WHT	8.0
	65 (73.0-
Net dividend received	8.0)
Effective dividend withholding tax rate	11.0%
	(8.0/73.0)

65% Credit available

Taxable income	U.S.\$100
CIT (27.0% of U.S.\$100)	(27.0)
Net proceeds available	73.0
Dividend payment	73.0
Withholding Tax (35.0% of the sum of the dividend (U.S.\$73.0) and the available CIT credit (U.S.\$27.55))	35.0
CIT credit	(27.00)
CIT debit	9.45
Payable WHT	17.45
	55.55 (73.0-
Net dividend received	17.45)
Effective dividend withholding tax rate	24.0%
	(17.45/73.0)

Dividend distributions made in kind would be subject to the same Chilean tax rules as cash dividends.

Stock dividends received by the Foreign Holder are not subject to Chilean taxation.

If the Proposed U.S.-Chile Treaty becomes effective, U.S. investors should consult their tax advisers as to the applicability of the treaty in their particular circumstances.

Taxation of Capital Gains

Gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition by a Foreign Holder of ADSs will not be subject to Chilean taxation, provided that such sale or disposition occurs outside Chile or that it is performed under the rules of Title XXIV of the Chilean Securities Market Law, as amended by Law No. 19,601, dated January 18, 1999. The deposit and withdrawal of shares of common stock in exchange for ADSs will not be subject to any Chilean taxes.

Gain recognized on a sale or exchange of shares of common stock (as distinguished from sales or exchanges of ADSs representing such shares of common stock) by a Foreign Holder to an individual or entity that is not resident or domiciled in Chile will be subject to WHT. This tax must be withheld by the purchaser, with an interim rate of 10.0% of the total price without any deduction, unless the gain subject to taxation can be determined, in which case the withholding will be equal to a 35.0% on the gain.

Notwithstanding the above, if the seller evidences that no capital gain was generated, the WHT would not be applicable. For tax purposes, the capital gain shall be the difference between the sales price and the acquisition cost of the stock.

The tax basis of shares of common stock received in exchange for ADSs will be the acquisition value of such shares. The valuation procedure set forth in the deposit agreement, states that the highest price at which shares of common

stock were exchanged on the Santiago Stock Exchange on the date of the exchange, generally will determine the acquisition value for this purpose. Consequently, the conversion of ADSs into shares of common stock and sale of such shares of common stock for the value established under the deposit agreement made on the date of the exchange will not generate a capital gain subject to taxation in Chile. In the case where ADSs were exchanged for shares and the subsequent sale of the shares is made on a different day from the one on which the exchange is recorded in the shareholders' registry of the issuer, capital gains subject to taxation in Chile may be generated, depending on the difference between the acquisition value and the sale price.

On October 1, 1999, the Chilean Internal Revenue Service issued Ruling N°3,708 whereby it allowed Chilean issuers of ADSs to amend the Deposit Agreements in which they are parties in order to include a clause that states that, in the case that the exchanged shares are sold by the ADSs' holder on a Chilean Stock Exchange, either on the same day on which the exchange is recorded in the shareholders' registry of the issuer or within the two prior business days to such date, the acquisition price of such exchanged shares shall be the price registered in the invoice issued by the stock broker that participated in the sale transaction.

Consequently, as we have included this clause in the form of ADRs attached to the deposit agreement, the capital gain that might be generated if the shares received in exchange for ADSs were sold within two days prior to the date on which the exchange is recorded in the shareholders' registry of the issuer, will not be subject to Distribution and exercise of preemptive rights relating to the shares of common stock will not be subject to Chilean taxation.

Cash amounts received in exchange for the shares or assignment of preemptive rights relating to the shares will be subject to both the CIT and the WHT (the former being creditable against the latter to the extent described above).

In certain cases and provided certain requirements are met, capital gains realized on the sale of actively traded stock of Chilean public companies may be exempt from Chilean income taxes.

Our stock is currently considered to be an actively traded stock in the Santiago Stock Exchange, and Foreign Holders of the stock may qualify for an income tax exemption. Foreign Holders are urged to consult with their own tax advisers to determine whether an exemption applies to them.

If the Proposed U.S.-Chile Double Tax Treaty becomes effective, it may further restrict the amount of Chilean tax, if any, imposed on gains derived from the sale or exchange of shares of common stock by U.S. residents eligible for the benefits of the treaty. U.S. investors should consult their tax advisers as to the applicability of the treaty in their particular circumstances.

Other Chilean Taxes

No Chilean inheritance, donation or succession taxes apply to the transfer or disposition of the ADSs by a Foreign Holder, but such taxes generally will apply to the transfer at death or by donation of shares of our common stock by a Foreign Holder. No Chilean stamp, issue, registration or similar taxes or duties apply to Foreign Holders of shares or ADSs.

Withholding Tax Certificates

Upon request, we will provide to Foreign Holders appropriate documentation evidencing the payment of Withholding Taxes. For further information, the investor should contact: Robert Moreno, irelations@santander.cl. Dividends payable to holders of ADSs are net of foreign currency conversion expenses of the Depositary and will be subject to the Withholding Tax currently at the rate of 35% (subject to credits in certain cases as described above).

Impact of Chilean Tax Reform

On September 29, 2014, the Law No. 20,780 containing the Tax Reform was published in the Official Gazette. The Tax Reform introduced significant changes to the Chilean taxation system and strengthened the powers of the Chilean Tax Authority to control and prevent tax avoidance. The Tax Reform contemplates, among other reforms, changes to the Corporate Tax regime to create two different tax regimes: the Attributed Income Regime (*Sistema de Renta Atribuida*) and the Semi-Integrated Regime (*Sistema Parcialmente Integrado*).

On February 8, 2016, Law No. 20,899 (that simplifies the taxation systems introduced by the Tax Reform Law) was published, which introduced changes that are intended to simplify certain provisions of the Tax Reform. The

amendments applied the Semi-Integrated Regime (*Sistema Parcialmente Integrado*) to corporations, limited joint-stock companies and any other entity with at least one non-final taxpayer owner. In addition, the amendments limited the Attributed Income Regime (*Sistema de Renta Atribuida*) to use by individuals, personal holding companies with limited liability, communities, non-residents that have any kind of permanent establishment in Chile and limited liability companies. Certain taxpayers in the Attributed Income Regime can opt into the Semi-Integrated regime.

Under the Attributed Income Regime, shareholders will be taxed on an accrual basis. The regime imposes a First Category Tax of 25% imposed at the level of the operating entity, plus a global complementary tax at progressive rates for resident individuals or an additional withholding income tax (withholding tax) of 35% for nonresident shareholders (the First Category Tax being 100% creditable), resulting in an overall income tax charge of 35% for nonresidents. Under this regime, profits would be required to be attributed to the owners, irrespective of whether a distribution actually is made.

Under the Semi-integrated Regime, shareholders would be taxed on a cash basis (when profits are distributed). The regime imposes a First Category Tax of 25.5% for 2017 (and 27.0% as from 2018) at the level of the operating entity, plus a global complementary tax at progressive rates for resident individuals or an additional withholding income tax (Withholding Tax) of 35.0% for nonresident shareholders. The First Category Tax still would be creditable against the 35.0% Withholding Tax under that regime, but 35.0% of the credit shall be paid to the Treasury, so, in practice, only 65.0% of the First Category Tax would be creditable. Thus, taxpayers would pay for the ability to defer shareholder taxation until profits actually are distributed with a higher overall income tax rate than under the Attributed Income Regime.

However, the Tax Reform (as supplemented by Law No. 20,899 that simplifies the taxation systems introduced by the Tax Reform Law) considered that investors from countries with which Chile has signed a Double Tax Treaty, a convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion, as of January 1, 2017 would be entitled to use the 100.0% of the First Category Tax credit, even if at that time the agreement was not yet in force. Under such circumstances, the full tax credit would be applicable until December 31, 2019 if at that time the relevant Double Tax Treaty had not yet entered into force. Thus, investors from such treaty countries would enjoy the advantage of deferring shareholder taxation until profits were distributed, and yet retain the benefit of the overall 35.0% income tax charge.

For banking enterprises, the default regime is the Semi-integrated Regime.

Year	Rate
2014	21.0%
2015	22.5%
2016	24.0%
2017	25.0% (Attributed Income Regime) / 25.5% (Semi-Integrated Regime)
2018	25.0% (Attributed Income Regime) / 27.0% (Semi-Integrated Regime)

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of shares of our common stock or ADSs to U.S. holders described below, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular person's decision to hold such common stock or ADSs. The discussion applies only if you are a U.S. holder holding shares of our common stock or ADSs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes. It does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to you in light of your particular circumstances, including the alternative minimum tax and the Medicare contribution tax, nor does it describe all tax consequences that may be relevant to U.S. holders subject to special rules, such as:

- certain financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- dealers and traders in securities who use a mark-to-market method of tax accounting;
- persons holding shares or ADSs as part of a hedge, "straddle," conversion transaction, integrated transaction or similar transaction;
- persons whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar;
- partnerships or other entities classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes;
- tax-exempt entities, including "individual retirement accounts" or "Roth IRAs";
- persons holding shares of our common stock or ADSs that own or are deemed to own ten percent or more of the voting power or value of our stock;
- persons who acquired shares of our common stock or ADSs pursuant to the exercise of any employee stock option plan or otherwise as compensation; or
- persons whose shares or ADSs are held in connection with a trade or business conducted outside the United States.

If an entity that is classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes owns shares of our common stock or ADSs, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Partnerships owning shares of our common stock or ADSs and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisers as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of the shares of our common stock or ADSs.

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), administrative pronouncements, judicial decisions and final, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations, all as of the date hereof. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. It is also based in part on representations by the Depositary and assumes that each obligation under the deposit agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms. In addition, this discussion does not address U.S. state, local and non-U.S.

tax consequences. Please consult your tax advisers concerning the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences of owning and disposing of shares or ADSs in your particular circumstances.

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

- a citizen or individual resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, a state thereof or the District of Columbia; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

In general, if you own ADSs, you will be treated as the owner of the underlying shares represented by those ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if you exchange ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom American Depositary Shares are released prior to delivery of shares to the Depositary (“pre-release”) or intermediaries in the chain of ownership between U.S. holders of American Depositary Shares and the issuer of the security underlying the American Depositary Shares may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits for holders of American Depositary Shares. These actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the favorable tax rates, described below, applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate holders. Accordingly, the creditability of Chilean taxes and the availability of the favorable tax rates for dividends received by certain non-corporate holders, each described below, could be affected by actions that may be taken by such parties or intermediaries.

This discussion assumes that we are not, and will not become, a passive foreign investment company, as described below.

Taxation of Distributions

Distributions paid on shares of our common stock or ADSs, other than certain pro rata distributions of common shares or rights, will be treated as dividends to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). Because we do not maintain calculations of our earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles, it is expected that distributions generally will be reported to U.S. holders as dividends. Subject to applicable limitations and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, certain dividends paid by “qualified foreign corporations” to certain non-corporate U.S. holders may be taxable at rates applicable to long-term capital gains. A foreign corporation is treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends paid on stock that is readily tradable on a securities market in the United States, such as the NYSE where our ADSs are traded. You should consult your tax advisers to determine whether the favorable rates may apply to dividends you receive and whether you are subject to any special rules that limit your ability to be taxed at the favorable rates. The amount of the dividend will include any amounts withheld by us or our paying agent in respect of Chilean taxes at the effective rate (after credit for CIT) as described above under “ – Material Tax Consequences of Owning Shares of Our Common Stock or ADSs–Taxation of Dividends.” You should consult with your tax adviser to determine the amount considered withheld with respect to a distribution if you are subject to the Attributed Income Regime for Chilean tax purposes starting in 2017, as described above under “–Material Tax Consequences of Owning Shares of Our Common Stock or ADSs–Impact of Chilean Tax Reform.” The amount of the dividend will be treated as foreign-source dividend income to you and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations under the Code.

Dividends will be included in your income on the date of your (or in the case of ADSs, the Depositary’s) receipt of the dividend. The amount of any dividend income paid in Chilean pesos will be the U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of receipt regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. If the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, you should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. You may have foreign currency gain or loss if the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars after the date of receipt.

Subject to applicable limitations that may vary depending upon your circumstances and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, Chilean taxes withheld from cash dividends on shares of our common stock or ADSs, reduced by the credit for any CIT, as described above under “–Chilean Taxation,” generally will be creditable against your U.S. federal income tax liability. Starting in 2017, if you are subject to the Attributed Income Regime, as described above under “–Material Tax Consequences of Owning Shares of Our Common Stock or ADSs–Impact of Chilean Tax Reform,” amounts paid by you or withheld by us, reduced by the credit for any CIT, may be creditable for U.S. tax purposes. If creditable, it is uncertain whether such tax would be creditable in the year the Chilean tax is imposed, irrespective of whether a distribution is actually made. You should consult your tax adviser concerning the creditability and timing issues pertaining to such tax. If, however, the Proposed U.S.-Chile Treaty becomes effective, any Chilean income taxes withheld from dividends on shares or ADSs in excess of the rate provided by the treaty will not be creditable by a U.S. holder who is eligible for the benefits of the treaty. The rules governing foreign tax credits are complex and you should consult your tax advisers to determine whether you are subject to any special rules that limit your ability to make effective use of foreign tax credits. Instead of claiming a credit, you may, at your election, deduct such Chilean taxes in computing your taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law. An election to deduct foreign taxes instead of claiming foreign tax credits must apply to all foreign taxes paid or accrued in the taxable year.

Sale or Other Disposition of Shares or ADSs

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, gain or loss you realize on the sale or other disposition of shares of our common stock or ADSs generally will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if you held the shares of our common stock or ADSs for more than one year. The amount of your gain or loss will be equal to the difference between your tax basis in the shares of our common stock or ADSs disposed of and the amount realized on the disposition, in each case as determined in U.S. dollars. If a Chilean tax is withheld on the sale or disposition of the shares of our common stock or ADSs, your amount realized will include the gross amount of the proceeds of such sale or disposition before deduction of the Chilean tax. See “–Chilean Taxation–Taxation of Capital Gains” for a description of when a disposition may be subject to taxation by Chile. Such gain or loss generally will be U.S.-source gain or loss for foreign tax credit purposes. Consequently, you may not be able to credit any Chilean tax imposed on the disposition of shares of our common stock or ADSs against your taxable income unless you have other foreign-source income in the appropriate foreign tax credit category. If the Proposed U.S.-Chile Treaty becomes effective, however, a U.S. holder who is eligible for the benefits of the treaty and whose gain from the sale of shares is not exempt from Chilean tax under such treaty may elect to treat disposition gain that is subject to Chilean tax as foreign-source gain and claim a credit in respect of the tax. You should consult your tax advisers as to whether the Chilean tax on gains may be creditable against your U.S. federal income tax on foreign-source income from other sources. Alternatively, instead of claiming a credit, you may elect to deduct otherwise creditable taxes in computing your income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law. An election to deduct foreign taxes instead of claiming foreign tax credits must apply to all foreign taxes paid or accrued in the taxable year.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

Based on proposed Treasury regulations (the “Proposed Regulations”), which are proposed to be effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1994, we believe that we were not a “passive foreign investment company” (a “PFIC”) for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the year ended December 31, 2017. However, since the Proposed Regulations may not be finalized in their current form and since PFIC status depends upon the composition of a company’s income and assets and the market value of its assets (including, among others, less than 25 percent owned equity investments) from time to time, there can be no assurance that we will not be a PFIC for any taxable year. If we were a PFIC for any taxable year during which you held an ADS or a share of our common stock, certain adverse tax consequences could apply to you.

If we were a PFIC for any taxable year during which you held shares of our common stock or ADSs, gain recognized by you on a sale or other disposition (including certain pledges) of a share of our common stock or an ADS would generally be allocated ratably over your holding period for the share of our common stock or ADS. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and to any year before we became a PFIC would be taxed as ordinary income. The amount allocated to each other taxable year would be subject to tax at the highest rate in effect for individuals or corporations, as appropriate, for that taxable year, and an interest charge would be imposed on the resulting tax liability for that taxable year. Similar rules would apply to any distribution in respect of shares of our common stock or ADSs that exceeds 125% of the average of the annual distributions on