

of payments. For approximately six months in 1989 and early 1990, the Federal Government froze all dividend and capital repatriations that were owed to foreign equity investors, in order to conserve Brazil's foreign currency reserves. These amounts were subsequently released in accordance with Federal Government directives. The imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments increased during 1999, and there can be no assurance that such increases will not incur in the future or that the Federal Government will not impose similar restrictions on foreign repatriations in the future for similar or other reasons.

**E. Taxation**

The following summary contains a description of the principal Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the common shares or ADSs, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to hold common shares or ADSs. The summary is based upon the tax laws of Brazil and regulations thereunder and on the federal income tax laws of the United States and regulations and other authorities thereunder as of the date hereof, all of which are subject to change. Holders of common shares or ADSs should consult their tax advisers as to the tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs in their particular circumstances.

Although there is at present no income tax treaty between Brazil and the United States, the two countries have tax treatment reciprocity, which means that a tax paid in one country might be offset against the income tax due in the other country, or vice-versa, if conditions are met. It is important to mention that the tax authorities of the two countries have had discussions that may culminate in such a treaty in the future. No assurance can be given, however, as to whether or when a treaty will enter into force or how it will affect the U.S. holders of common shares or ADSs.

**Brazilian Tax Considerations**

The following discussion summarizes the principal Brazilian tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder. This discussion does not address all the Brazilian tax considerations that may be applicable to any particular non-Brazilian holder, and each non-Brazilian holder should consult its tax adviser about the Brazilian tax consequences of investing in common shares or ADSs.

***Taxation of Dividends***

Dividends paid by us in cash or in kind from profits of periods beginning on or after January 1, 1996 (1) to the depositary in respect of common shares underlying ADSs or (2) to a non-Brazilian holder in respect of common shares will generally not be subject to Brazilian income tax withholding.

***Taxation of Gains***

According to Article 26 of Law No. 10,833 of December 29, 2003, which came into force on February 1, 2004, capital gains realized on the disposition of assets located in Brazil by non-Brazilian residents, whether or not to other non-residents and whether made outside or within Brazil, are subject to taxation in Brazil. Since January 1, 2017, the rate of the income tax on capital gains accrued by non-Brazilian individual residents may vary between 15% and 22.5% depending on the capital gain amount. Ultimately, a 25% rate may applied if the capital gain is realized by investors located in a Low or Nil Tax Jurisdiction (see below under “–Discussion on Low or Nil Tax Jurisdictions”). Although we believe that the ADSs will not fall within the definition of assets located in Brazil for the purposes of Law No. 10,833, considering the general and unclear scope of Law No. 10,833 and the absence of any judicial guidance in respect thereof, we are unable to predict whether such interpretation will ultimately prevail in the Brazilian courts.

Gains realized by non-Brazilian holders on dispositions of common shares in Brazil or in transactions with Brazilian residents may be exempt from Brazilian income tax or taxed at a rate that may vary between 15% and 25%, depending on the circumstances. This is because the current legislation prescribes specific taxation rules for gains arising from investments in the Brazilian financial and capital markets as opposed to other types of gains.

In this sense, gains realized by non-Brazilian holders through transactions on Brazilian stock exchanges, if carried out in accordance with Resolution CMN 4,373 (that replaced Resolution CMN 2,689), as described below,

are exempt from Brazilian income tax or subject to income tax at a rate of 15% if a holder in a Low or Nil Tax Jurisdiction realizes the gain. On the other hand, gains realized through transactions with Brazilian residents or not executed on the Brazilian stock exchanges are subject to tax at a rate that may vary between 15% and 22.5% depending on the capital gain amount, or of 25% if the transactions are made by investors resident in a Low or Nil Tax Jurisdiction. Non-Brazilian holders should consult their tax advisors on the applicable income tax rate.

Non-Brazilian holders of common shares registered under Resolution CMN 4,373 (which includes ADSs) will only be subject to the tax exemption mentioned herein if the investor has:

- appointed a representative in Brazil with power to take action relating to the investment in common shares;
- registered as a foreign investor with the CVM; and
- registered its investment in common shares with the Central Bank.

In addition, Resolution CMN 4,373 also establishes that securities held by foreign investors must be maintained under the custody of, or in deposit accounts with, financial institutions duly authorized by the Central Bank and the CVM.

Securities trading under Resolution CMN 4,373 is restricted to transactions on Brazilian stock exchanges or qualified over-the-counter markets. As stated herein, the preferential treatment afforded under Resolution CMN 4,373 and afforded to investors in ADSs is not available to investors resident or domiciled in Low or Nil Tax Jurisdictions.

There can be no assurance that the current preferential treatment for non-Brazilian holders of common shares under Resolution CMN 4,373 will be maintained.

Gain on the disposition of common shares, subject to the tax treatment described above, is measured by the difference between the amounts in Brazilian currency realized on the sale or exchange and the acquisition cost of the shares sold, measured in Brazilian currency, without any correction for inflation. The acquisition cost of shares must be supported by proven documents.

The deposit of common shares in exchange for the ADSs may be subject to Brazilian income tax if the amount previously registered with the Central Bank as a foreign investment in our common shares is lower than:

- the average price per common share on the B3 on the day of the deposit; or
- if no common shares were sold on that day, the average price per common share on the B3 during the fifteen preceding trading sessions.

The difference between the amount previously registered and the average price of the common shares, calculated as set forth above, may be considered by the tax authorities as a capital gain subject to income tax. Unless the common shares were held in accordance with Resolution CMN 4,373, in which case the exchange would be tax-free, the capital gain will be subject to income tax at the following rates: (1) 15%, for gains realized through transactions that were conducted on Brazilian stock exchanges; or (2) from 15% to 22.5% for gains realized through transactions in Brazil that were not conducted on the Brazilian stock exchanges, or 25% if realized by investors located at Low or Nil Tax Jurisdiction.

The cancellation of ADSs in exchange for common shares is not subject to Brazilian income tax if the non-Brazilian holder qualifies under Resolution CMN 4,373, but is subject to the IOF/Exchange tax as described below.

#### ***Discussion on Low or Nil Tax Jurisdictions***

For purposes of Brazilian law, Low or Nil Tax Jurisdictions are countries and jurisdictions that do not tax income or that have a maximum income tax rate lower than 17%. Since 1998, the Brazilian Internal Revenue Service has issued acts expressly listing the countries/jurisdictions that are to be considered low tax jurisdictions for Brazilian tax purposes. Currently, the tax authorities have deemed approximately 60 countries to be low tax

jurisdictions pursuant to Normative Instruction 1,037/2010, article 1. These countries include the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Hong Kong.

Under Brazilian tax legislation, holders domiciled in Low or Nil Tax Jurisdictions are: (1) subject to a higher rate of withholding tax on income and capital gains; (2) not entitled to exemptions for investments in the Brazilian capital markets; (3) subject to automatic application of transfer pricing rules in transactions with Brazilian legal entities that are resident in Brazil; and (4) subject to thin capitalization rules on debt with legal entities that are resident in Brazil.

On June 24, 2008, Law No. 11,727/08 established the concept of “privileged tax regime”, which is a tax regime that (1) does not tax income or taxes it at a maximum rate lower than 20%; (2) grants tax benefits to non-resident entities or individuals (a) without the requirement to carry out a substantial economic activity in the country or dependency or (b) contingent to the non-exercise of a substantial economic activity in the country or dependency; (3) does not tax or that taxes the income generated abroad at a maximum rate lower than 20%; or (4) does not provide access to information related to shareholding composition, ownership of assets and rights or economic transactions carried out. However in 2014, an executive order National Treasury Ordinance No. 488/14 was issued (endorsed by Normative Instruction No. 1,530/14) indicating that, if countries are aligned with the international standards of fiscal transparency, the maximum rate to be considered as a “privileged tax regime” would be 17% and not 20%.

In principle, the best interpretation of Law No. 11,727/08 is that the new concept of privileged tax regime should be solely applied for purposes of transfer pricing rules in export and import transactions. However, due to the recent enactment of this Law, we are unable to ascertain whether or not the privileged tax regime concept will be extended to the concept of Low or Nil Tax Jurisdiction. The provisions of Law No. 11,727/08 that refer to the privileged tax regime came into effect on January 1, 2009. Although we are of the opinion that the concept of privileged tax regime should not affect the tax treatment of a non-resident shareholder described above, we cannot assure you whether subsequent legislation or interpretations by the Brazilian tax authorities regarding the definition of privileged tax regime will extend such concept to the tax treatment of a non-resident shareholder described above.

Prospective purchasers should therefore consult with their tax advisors regarding the consequences of the implementation of Law No. 11,727/08, Normative Instruction No. 1,037/2010 and of any related Brazilian tax laws or regulations concerning Low or Nil Tax Jurisdictions and privileged tax regimes.

#### ***Distributions of Interest on Capital***

A Brazilian corporation may make payments to its shareholders characterized as interest on the corporation’s capital as an alternative form of making dividend distributions. See “Item 8. Financial Information–A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information–Dividend Policy.” The rate of interest may not be higher than the TJLP, as determined by the Central Bank from time to time. The total amount distributed as interest on capital may not exceed, for tax purposes, the greater of:

- 50% of net income for the year in respect of which the payment is made, after the deduction of social contribution or net profits and before (1) making any deduction for corporate income taxes paid and (2) taking such distribution into account; or
- 50% of retained earnings for the year prior to the year in respect of which the payment is made.

Payments of interest on capital are decided by the shareholders on the basis of recommendations by our Board of Directors.

Distributions of interest on capital paid to Brazilian and non-Brazilian holders of common shares, including payments to the depositary in respect of common shares underlying ADSs, are deductible by us for Brazilian tax purposes up to the limit mentioned above. Such payments are subject to withholding income tax at the rate of 15%, or 25% in the case of a stockholder who is domiciled in a Low or Nil Tax Jurisdiction. These payments may be qualified, at their net value, as part of any mandatory dividend. As described herein the Company and its subsidiaries have been paying interest on equity since 2017 and paid in 2021 as well. Please refer to “Item 5. –

Operating and Financial Review and Prospects” –Dividend Distribution –Interest on Equity” for detailed information. No assurance can be given that our Board of Directors will not recommend that future distributions of profits be made as interest on capital instead of as dividends.

#### **Other Brazilian Taxes**

There are no Brazilian inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of the common shares or ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder except for gift and inheritance taxes levied by some states in Brazil on gifts made or inheritances bestowed by individuals or entities not resident or domiciled in Brazil or in the relevant state to individuals or entities that are resident or domiciled within such state in Brazil. There is no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of common shares or ADSs.

In 2018, there were two changes related to IOF: (i) the tax rate on foreign exchange transactions was increased to 1.10% (it was 0.38%) pursuant to Decree No. 9,297/2018; and (ii) rules were adopted relating to incidence of IOF in credit transactions of a period longer than one year pursuant to RFB Normative Instruction No. 1,814/2018 (and confirmed by RFB Normative Instruction No. 1,969/2020). Tax on Foreign Exchange and Financial Transactions

Tax on foreign exchange transactions (the “IOF/Exchange Tax”)

Brazilian law imposes the IOF/Exchange Tax on the conversion of reais into foreign currency and on the conversion of foreign currency into reais. Currently, the tax rate related to foreign investments in the Brazilian financial and capital markets is zero.

However, it is important to note that the Brazilian Government is permitted to increase such rate at any time up to 25%. However, any increase in rates may only apply to future foreign exchange transactions.

Tax on transactions involving bonds and securities (the “IOF/Bonds Tax.”)

Brazilian law imposes the IOF/Bonds Tax on transactions involving bonds and securities, including those carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange. The rate of IOF/Bonds Tax applicable to transactions involving the deposit of common shares in exchange for ADSs is currently zero, but can be reviewed by the Brazilian government any time.

#### **U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations**

The following are the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to a U.S. Holder described below of owning and disposing of common shares or ADSs, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all tax considerations that may be relevant to a particular person’s decision to hold or dispose of such securities. This discussion applies only to a U.S. Holder that holds common shares or ADSs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes and it does not describe all tax consequences that may be relevant to U.S. Holders subject to special rules, such as:

- certain financial institutions;
- insurance companies;
- dealers or traders in securities or foreign currencies who use a mark-to-market method of tax accounting;
- persons holding common shares or ADSs as part of a “straddle,” wash sale, conversion transaction, integrated transaction or similar transaction or persons entering into a constructive sale with respect to the common shares or ADSs;
- 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;

- persons liable for the alternative minimum tax or the provisions of the Code (as defined below) known as the Medicare Contribution Tax;
- tax-exempt entities, including “individual retirement accounts” (“Roth IRAs;”)
- persons who acquired our common shares or ADSs pursuant to the exercise of an employee stock option or otherwise as compensation;
- persons holding our common shares or ADSs in connection with a trade or business conducted outside the United States; or
- persons holding common shares or ADSs that own or are deemed to own 10% or more of our stock (by vote or value).

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

This discussion is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or 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 with retroactive effect.

A “U.S. Holder” is a holder who, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a beneficial owner of common shares or ADSs that 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, any state therein 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, a U.S. Holder that owns ADSs will be treated as the owner of the underlying common shares represented by those ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if a U.S. Holder exchanges ADSs for the underlying common shares represented by those ADSs.

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

This discussion assumes that the Company is not, and will not become, a passive foreign investment company, as described below.

#### ***Taxation of Distributions***

Distributions paid on common shares or ADSs, including distributions of interest on capital, will generally be treated as dividends to the extent paid out of the Company’s current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). Because the Company does not maintain calculations of its 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, dividends paid by qualified foreign corporations to certain non-corporate U.S. Holders are 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). U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers to determine whether these preferential rates will apply to dividends they receive and whether they are subject to any special rules that limit their ability to be taxed at these preferential rates.

The amount of a dividend will include any amounts withheld by the Company in respect of Brazilian taxes on the distribution. The amount of the dividend will be treated as foreign-source dividend income to U.S. Holders and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations under the Code. Dividends will be included in a U.S. Holder's income on the date of the U.S. Holder's or, in the case of ADSs, the depository's receipt of the dividend. The amount of any dividend income paid in *reais* will be the U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of such 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, a U.S. Holder generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. A U.S. Holder may have foreign currency gain or loss if the dividend is converted into U.S. dollars after the date of its receipt.

***Sale or Other Disposition of Common Shares or ADSs***

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, gain or loss realized on the sale or other disposition of common shares or ADSs will be capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder held the common shares or ADSs for more than one year. The amount of the gain or loss will equal the difference between the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the common shares or ADSs disposed of and the amount realized on the disposition, in each case as determined in U.S. dollars. Such gain or loss will generally be U.S.-source gain or loss for foreign tax credit purposes. If Brazilian tax is withheld on the sale or other disposition of common shares or ADSs, a U.S. Holder's amount realized will include the gross amount of the proceeds of such sale or other disposition before deduction of the Brazilian tax.

See “–Brazilian Tax Considerations–Taxation of Gains” for a description of when a disposition may be subject to taxation by Brazil.

***Foreign Tax Credits in Respect of Brazilian Taxes***

Subject to applicable limitations that may vary depending upon a U.S. Holder's circumstances, Brazilian income taxes withheld from dividends on common shares or ADSs generally will be creditable against a U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, if such taxes were paid or accrued in a taxable year beginning before December 28, 2021.

A U.S. Holder will be entitled to use foreign tax credits to offset only the portion of its U.S. tax liability that is attributable to foreign-source income. This limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with regard to specific classes of income. Recently issued Treasury regulations, which apply to foreign taxes paid or accrued in taxable years beginning on or after December 28, 2021 (the “Final Treasury Regulations”), impose additional requirements for foreign taxes to be eligible for credit. We have not determined whether these requirements have been met with respect to any withholding tax imposed on dividends on common shares or ADSs and, therefore, U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers as to the availability of foreign tax credits for any amounts withheld with respect to dividends on common shares or ADSs to which the Final Treasury Regulations apply. Because a U.S. Holder's gains from the sale or exchange of common shares or ADSs will generally be treated as U.S.-source income, this limitation may preclude a U.S. Holder from claiming a credit for all or a portion of the Brazilian taxes imposed on any such gains. In addition, in taxable years to which they apply, the Final Treasury Regulations generally will preclude U.S. Holders from claiming a foreign tax credit with respect to any tax imposed on gains from the disposition of shares by a jurisdiction, such as Brazil, that does not have an applicable income tax treaty with the United States, although such taxes may be applied to reduce the amount realized by the U.S. Holder on the disposition. Instead of claiming a credit, a U.S. Holder may elect to deduct creditable Brazilian taxes in computing its taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law. An election to deduct creditable foreign taxes instead of claiming foreign tax credits must apply to all such foreign taxes paid or accrued in the taxable year to foreign countries and possessions of the United States.

The Brazilian IOF/Bonds Tax and any IOF/Exchange Tax imposed on the deposit of common shares in exchange for ADSs and the cancellation of ADSs in exchange for common shares (as discussed above under “–Brazilian Tax Considerations–Tax on Foreign Exchange and Financial Transactions”) will not be treated as creditable foreign taxes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding the tax treatment of these taxes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The rules governing foreign tax credits are complex and, therefore, U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding the availability of foreign tax credits in their particular circumstances (including any applicable limitations).

***Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules***

The Company believes that it was not a “passive foreign investment company,” or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes for its 2021 taxable year. However, since PFIC status depends upon the composition of a company’s income and assets and the market value of its assets from time to time, there can be no assurance that the Company will not be a PFIC for any taxable year.

If the Company were a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held common shares or ADSs, gain recognized by such U.S. Holder on a sale or other disposition (including certain pledges) of the common shares or ADSs would be allocated ratably over the U.S. Holder’s holding period for the common shares or ADSs. The amounts allocated to the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and to any year before the Company 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 such taxable year, and an interest charge would be imposed on the resulting tax liability for such taxable year. Similar rules would apply to any distribution received by a U.S. Holder on its common shares or ADSs to the extent in excess of 125% of the average of the annual distributions on common shares or ADSs received by a U.S. Holder during the preceding three years or such U.S. Holder’s holding period, whichever is shorter. Certain elections (such as a mark-to-market election) may be available that would result in alternative treatment under the PFIC rules. U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers to determine whether the Company is a PFIC for any given taxable year and the tax consequences to them of holding shares in a PFIC.

If the Company is a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder owned common shares or ADSs, the U.S. Holder will generally be required to file IRS Form 8621 with its annual U.S. federal income tax returns, subject to certain exceptions.

***Information Reporting and Backup Withholding***

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries generally are subject to information reporting and may be subject to backup withholding unless (1) the U.S. Holder is a corporation or other exempt recipient or (2) in the case of backup withholding, the U.S. Holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding.

The amount of any backup withholding 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 the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Certain U.S. Holders who are individuals (and certain specified entities) may be required to report information relating to their ownership of an interest in certain foreign financial assets, including stock of a non-U.S. person, subject to exceptions (including an exception for stock held through a U.S. financial institution). U.S. Holders should consult their tax advisers regarding their reporting obligations with respect to our common shares or ADSs.

U.S. Holders of our common shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisers as to the Brazilian, U.S. federal, state, local and other tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common shares or ADSs based upon their particular circumstances.

***F. Dividends and Paying Agents***

Not applicable.

***G. Statement by Experts***

Not applicable.