

converting dividends, distributions or the proceeds from any sale of shares, as the case may be, into U.S. dollars and remitting such U.S. dollars abroad. Delays in, or refusal to, granting the required government approval for conversions of Brazilian currency payments and remittances abroad could adversely affect holders of ADSs.

We have obtained a certificate of registration in the name of The Bank of New York, the depository. Pursuant to this certificate, the custodian and the depository are able to convert dividends and other distributions with respect to the shares represented by ADSs into foreign currency and to remit the proceeds outside Brazil. If a holder exchanges ADSs for shares, such holder may continue to rely on the depository's certificate of capital registration for only five business days after such exchange. After that, such holder must seek to register its investment directly with the Central Bank. Thereafter, unless the holder has registered its investment with the Central Bank, such holder may not convert into foreign currency and remit outside Brazil the proceeds from the disposition of, or distributions with respect to, such shares. Such holder generally will be subject to less favorable Brazilian tax treatment than a holder of ADSs.

Before March 14, 2005, there were two principal foreign exchange markets in Brazil, in which notes were freely negotiated but could be strongly influenced by Central Bank intervention:

- the commercial rate exchange market dedicated principally to trade and financial foreign exchange transactions such as the buying and selling of registered investments by foreign entities, the purchase or sale of shares, or the payment of dividends or interest with respect to shares; and
- the floating rate exchange market that was generally used for transactions not conducted through the commercial foreign exchange market.

On March 4, 2005, the National Monetary Council enacted Resolution No. 3265, pursuant to which the commercial rate exchange market and the floating rate exchange market were unified in a sole exchange market, effective as of March 14, 2005. The new regulation allows, subject to certain procedures and specific regulatory provisions, the purchase and sale of foreign currency and the international transfer of *Reais* by a person or legal entity, without limitation of the amount involved, provided that the transaction is legal.

Under Brazilian law, whenever there is a serious imbalance in Brazil's balance of payments or reasons to foresee a serious imbalance, the Brazilian government may impose temporary restriction on the remittance of foreign currency abroad and on the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currencies. Such restrictions may hinder or prevent the custodian or holders who have exchanged ADSs for underlying shares from converting distributions or the proceeds from any sale of such shares, as the case may be, into U.S. dollars and remitting such U.S. dollars abroad.

E. Taxation

This description does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to any particular investor, including tax considerations that arise from rules of general application to all taxpayers or to certain classes of investors or that are generally assumed to be known by investors.

This summary is based upon tax laws of Brazil and the United States as of the date of this annual report, which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, and to differing interpretations. Investors who hold our shares and ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the Brazilian, United States or other tax considerations relating to the ownership and disposition of shares or ADSs, including, in particular, the effect of any non U.S., state or local tax laws.

The tax considerations described below do not take into account the effects of a possible future income tax treaty between Brazil and the United States. We cannot assure you as to whether or when an income tax treaty will enter into force or how it will affect U.S. Holders (as defined below) of our shares or ADSs.

This summary does not address any tax issues that affect solely the company, such as deductibility of expenses.

Brazilian Tax Consequences

General. The following discussion summarizes the main Brazilian tax considerations relating to the ownership and disposal of our shares or ADSs, as the case may be, by a holder that is not domiciled in Brazil for purposes of Brazilian taxation and, in the case of shares, has registered its investment in such securities with the Central Bank as a direct investment (in each case, a “Non-Brazilian Holder”). The following discussion does not address all of the Brazilian tax considerations applicable to any particular Non-Brazilian Holder. Therefore, each Non-Brazilian Holder should consult his or her own tax advisors concerning the Brazilian tax considerations relating to an investment in our shares or ADSs.

Taxation of dividends. Dividends paid by us, including stock dividends and other dividends paid in property, to the depositary in respect of the shares, or to a Non-Brazilian Holder in respect of shares, are currently exempted from withholding tax in Brazil to the extent that the dividends are paid out of profits as of January 1, 1996. Dividends relating to profits generated prior to January 1, 1996 may be subject to Brazilian withholding income tax at varying rates, depending on the year the profits were generated.

Payments of interest on capital. Law No. 9,249, dated as of December 26, 1995, as amended, permits Brazilian corporations to make distributions to shareholders of interest on capital, or interest attributed to shareholders’ equity. These distributions may be paid in cash. Such payments represent a deductible expense from the payor’s corporate income tax and social contribution tax basis. This interest is limited to the daily pro rata variation of the Federal Government’s long-term interest rate, as determined by the Central Bank from time to time, and cannot exceed the greater of:

- 50% of net income (after the social contribution on net profits and before the provision for corporate income tax, and the amounts attributable to shareholders as interest on net equity) for the fiscal year; or
- 50% of the sum of retained profits and profits reserves.

Any payment of interest on capital to shareholders (including holders of ADSs in respect of shares) is subject to a withholding income tax at a rate of 15%, or 25% if the Non-Brazilian Holder is domiciled in a jurisdiction that does not impose income tax or where the maximum income tax rate is lower than 20% or where the local legislation imposes restrictions on disclosing the shareholding composition or the ownership of the investment (“Tax Haven Holder”). These payments may be included, net of withholding income taxes, as part of any mandatory dividend.

On June 24, 2008, Law 11,727 was enacted, which provides that, as of January 1, 2009, a “tax haven” will also include:

(1) jurisdictions or countries whose local legislation imposes restrictions on the access of information relating to the ownership of shares of a Brazilian entity or a given investment; and

(2) any “privileged tax regime”. Under this new law, a “privileged tax regime” is a tax regime that meets any one of the following requirements: (i) does not tax income or taxes income at a maximum rate of less than 20%; (ii) grants tax advantages to a non-resident entity or individual (a) without requiring substantial economic activity in the jurisdiction of such non-resident entity or individual or (b) to the extent such non-resident entity or individual does not conduct substantial economic activity in the jurisdiction of such non-resident entity or individual; (iii) does not tax income generated abroad, or imposes tax on income generated abroad at a maximum rate of less than 20%, or (iv) restricts the ownership disclosure of assets and ownership rights or restricts disclosure about economic transactions carried out.

Since Law 11,727 has only recently been enacted, regulations by the Brazilian Revenue Service are likely to be issued, and such regulations might affect the analysis of what constitutes a “tax haven” for purposes of the Brazilian regulations.

Specifically with respect to the part of the new Law 11,727 described in clause (2) above, our Brazilian counsel has advised that although this part of the new law should apply only to determining what constitutes a “tax haven” for purposes of Brazilian transfer pricing rules, because several Brazilian regulations utilize the “privileged tax regime” concept when referencing “tax haven” jurisdictions, there is a possibility that the privileged tax regime concept may impact the definition of what constitutes a “tax haven” for purposes of the Brazilian regulations.

To the extent that payments of interest on capital are included as part of a mandatory dividend, we are required to distribute an additional amount to ensure that the net amount received by shareholders, after payment of the applicable withholding income tax, is at least equal to the mandatory dividend.

Distributions of interest on net equity to foreign holders may be converted into U.S. dollars and remitted outside Brazil, subject to applicable exchange controls, to the extent that the investment is registered with the Central Bank.

We cannot assure you if our Board of Directors will determine that future distributions should be made by means of dividends or interest on capital.

Taxation of gains. According to Law no. 10,833, dated as of December 29, 2003, the gains recognized on a disposal of assets located in Brazil, such as our shares, by a Non-Brazilian Holder, are subject to withholding income tax in Brazil. This rule is applicable regardless of whether the disposal is conducted in Brazil or abroad and/or if the disposal is or is not made to an individual or entity resident or domiciled in Brazil.

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

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

- are subject to the withholding income tax at a zero percent rate when realized by a Non-Brazilian Holder that (i) has registered its investment in Brazil before the Central Bank under the rules of the Brazilian Monetary Counsel ("Registered Holder") and (ii) is not a Tax Haven Holder; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% with respect to gains realized by a Non-Brazilian Holder that is not a Registered Holder (including a Non-Brazilian Holder who qualifies under Law No. 4,131/62) and gains earned by Tax Haven Holders that are Registered Holders. In this case, a withholding income tax of 0.005% shall be applicable and can be offset against any income tax due on the capital gain.

Any other gains realized on the disposal of shares that are sold on the Brazilian stock exchange or on the organized over-the-counter market:

- are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% when realized by any Non-Brazilian Holder that is not a Tax Haven Holder, no matter if a Registered Holder or not; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 25% when realized by a Tax Haven Holder, no matter if a Registered Holder or not.

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

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

There can be no assurance that the current favorable tax treatment of Registered Holders will continue in the future.

Sale of ADS and shares by U.S. Holders to other non-residents in Brazil

Pursuant to Section 26 of Law No. 10,833, published on December 29, 2003, the sale of property located in Brazil involving non-resident investors is subject to Brazilian income tax as of February 1, 2004. Our understanding is that ADSs do not qualify as property located in Brazil and, thus, should not be subject to the Brazilian withholding tax. Insofar as the regulatory norm referred to in Section 26 is recent and generic and since, at the present time, no definitive jurisprudence provided by Brazilian Superior Courts has been established with respect to this matter, we are unable to assure the final outcome of such discussion.

Gains on the exchange of ADS for shares

Although there is no clear regulatory guidance, the exchange of ADSs for shares should not be subject to Brazilian income tax. Non-Brazilian Holders may exchange their ADSs for the underlying shares, sell the shares on a Brazilian stock exchange and remit abroad the proceeds of the sale within five business days from the date of exchange (in reliance on the depository's electronic registration). For further information, see "Item 10. Additional Information – Taxation – Brazilian Tax Consequences – Taxation of Bonds and Securities Transactions (IOF/Bonds)." Our understanding is that the exchange of ADSs for the underlying shares and sale of shares within the period mentioned above by a Non-Brazilian Holder that (i) is a Registered Holder and (ii) is not a Tax Haven Holder, should not be subject to the withholding income tax.

Upon receipt of the underlying shares in exchange for ADSs, Non-Brazilian Holders may also elect to register with the Central Bank the U.S. dollar value of such shares as a foreign portfolio investment under the rules of the Brazilian Monetary Counsel, which will entitle them to the tax treatment referred above in connection with Registered Holders.

Alternatively, the Non-Brazilian Holder is also entitled to register with the Central Bank the U.S. dollar value of such shares as a foreign direct investment under Law 4,131/62, in which case the respective sale would be subject to the tax treatment of Non-Brazilian Holders that are not Registered Holders.

Gains on the exchange of shares for ADS

The deposit of shares in exchange for the ADSs may be subject to Brazilian income tax on capital gains if the amount previously registered with the Central Bank as a foreign investment in shares (direct investment registered under Law 4,131) or, in the case of Registered Holders, the acquisition cost of the shares, as the case may be, is lower than:

- the average price per share on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of such shares were sold on the day of the deposit; or
- if no shares were sold on that day, the average price on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of shares were sold 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 shares, calculated as set forth above, is considered a capital gain subject to income tax at a rate of 15%, or 25% for Tax Haven Holders.

Taxation of Foreign Exchange Transactions (IOF/Exchange). IOF/Exchange is imposed on the conversion of *Reais* into foreign currency and on the conversion of foreign currency into *Reais*. In the case of the settlement of foreign exchange transactions for the flow of capital into the country, made by foreign investors, for transactions in the financial and capital markets, the applicable rate is 0%. The Brazilian Federal Government is permitted to increase the rate at any time, up to 25%. However, any increase in rates only applies to future transactions.

Taxation of Bonds and Securities Transactions: (IOF/Bonds). Law No. 8,894, dated as of June 21, 1994, created the IOF/Bonds, which may be imposed on any transaction involving bonds and securities, even if the transaction includes Brazilian stock, futures or commodities exchange. The rate of IOF/Bonds with respect to transactions of shares is currently 0%. Regarding the ADSs, under the Decree No. 7,011, from November 18, 2009 which amended the Decree No. 6,306, from December 14, 2007, the transfer of shares listed on the Brazilian stock exchange, with the specific purpose of guaranteeing the issuance of depository receipts in the foreign market, is subject to a 1.5% IOF/bonds rate. The Brazilian government may increase the rate up to 1.5% per day during the terms of the securities, but only with respect to future transactions relating to shares or ADSs.

Other Brazilian Taxes. Some Brazilian states impose gift and inheritance tax on gifts or bequests made by individuals or entities not domiciled or residing in Brazil to individuals or entities domiciled or residing within such states. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of shares or ADSs.

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following is a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the ownership and disposition of our shares or ADSs, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to U.S. Holders (as defined below) of our shares or ADSs. The discussion applies only to a U.S. Holder (as defined below) that holds our shares or ADSs as capital assets (generally, for investment purposes) for U.S. federal income tax purposes and does not address all the U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to a holder in light of its particular circumstances or to holders subject to special rules, such as dealers and traders in securities or currencies, financial institutions, insurance companies, tax-exempt entities, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, persons that own, or have owned directly, indirectly or constructively, 10% or more of our voting shares for U.S. federal income tax purposes, persons holding our shares or ADSs as part of a hedging transaction, wash sale, straddle, conversion transaction or other integrated transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, persons entering into a “constructive sale” with respect to our shares or ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes, persons that have a functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes other than the U.S. dollar, persons liable for the alternative minimum tax, certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States, persons who acquired our shares or ADSs pursuant to the exercise of any employee stock option or otherwise as compensation, or entities or arrangements classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and their partners.

Moreover, this discussion does not address the U.S. federal estate and gift tax, Medicare contribution or alternative minimum tax considerations relating to the acquisition, ownership or disposition of our shares or ADSs. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax considerations relating to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our shares 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 U.S. Treasury regulations, in each case as in effect and available on the date hereof. All of the foregoing are subject to change (possibly on a retroactive basis), or differing interpretations, which could affect the U.S. federal income tax considerations described herein. In addition, this discussion assumes that each obligation provided for in or otherwise contemplated by the Deposit Agreement and any other related document will be performed in accordance with its terms.

For purposes of this discussion, a “U.S. Holder” is a beneficial owner of our shares or ADSs that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes (i) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized under the laws of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (iv) a trust, if such trust validly elects to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or if (1) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and (2) one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all of the substantial decisions of such trust. For purposes of this discussion, a “Non-U.S. Holder” is a beneficial owner of our shares or ADSs who is not a U.S. Holder or a partnership or an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

If a partnership, or any other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal tax income tax purposes, holds shares or ADSs, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner in such partnership generally will depend on the status of the partner and on the activities of the partnership. Partnerships holding shares or ADSs and partners in such partnerships should consult their own tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of the shares or ADSs.

U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors with regard to the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to their particular situations as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any non-U.S., state and local tax jurisdiction.

Ownership of ADSs in general

In general, U.S. Holders of ADSs will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as owners of the shares underlying the ADSs. Accordingly, no gain or loss will be recognized if a U.S. Holder exchanges ADSs for the underlying shares represented by those ADSs or exchanges the underlying shares represented by those ADSs for ADSs.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom ADSs are released prior to delivery of shares to the depositary (a “pre-release”) may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by U.S. Holders of ADSs. Accordingly, the creditability of Brazilian taxes, as described below, could be affected by actions that may be taken by the parties to whom ADSs are pre-released.

Taxation of distributions

Subject to the discussion below under “– Passive foreign investment company”, the gross amount of any distributions made to a U.S. Holder on shares or ADSs, before reduction for any Brazilian taxes, including withholding taxes attributable to interest on equity, will be includable as ordinary dividend income on the day on which the dividends are actually or constructively received by a U.S. Holder to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. A distribution in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder’s adjusted basis in the shares or ADSs and as a capital gain to the extent it exceeds the U.S. Holder’s basis. We do not maintain calculations of our earnings and profits under U.S. federal income tax principles. Therefore, U.S. Holders should expect that distributions by us generally will be treated as dividends to U.S. Holders for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Subject to applicable limitations, dividends paid to certain non-corporate U.S. Holders may be eligible for the preferential tax rate currently applicable to certain “qualified dividend income” received by individuals, and dividends paid to corporate U.S. Holders 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.

Dividends paid to U.S. Holders in *Reais* will be includable in income in a U.S. dollar amount based on the exchange rate in effect on the date of actual or constructive receipt whether or not converted into U.S. dollars at that time. If dividends received in *Reais* are converted into U.S. dollars on the day they are actually or constructively received, the U.S. Holder generally will not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. Assuming the payment is not converted at that time, the U.S. Holder will have a tax basis in *Reais* equal to that U.S. dollar amount, which will be used to measure gain or loss from subsequent changes in exchange rates. Any gain or loss that a U.S. Holder recognizes on a subsequent conversion of *Reais* into U.S. dollars (or other disposition) generally will be U.S. source ordinary income or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

Dividends on our shares or ADSs received by a U.S. Holder generally will be treated as foreign source income for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. Subject to certain conditions and limitations under U.S. federal income tax law concerning credits or deductions for non-U.S. taxes and certain exceptions for short-term and hedged positions, a Brazilian withholding tax imposed on dividends would be treated as a foreign income tax eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability (or at a U.S. Holder’s election may be deducted in computing taxable income if the U.S. Holder has elected to deduct all foreign income taxes for the taxable year). The limitation on foreign income taxes eligible for the U.S. foreign tax credit is calculated separately with respect to specific “baskets” of income. The rules with respect to foreign tax credits are complex and U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances. Instead of claiming a credit, a U.S. Holder may, at its election, deduct such otherwise creditable Brazilian taxes in computing its taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under the Code and the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder.

Taxation of sale, exchange or other disposition of shares or ADSs

Subject to the discussion below under “– Passive foreign investment company”, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize gain or loss on the sale, exchange or other disposition of a share or ADS equal to the difference between the amount realized (including the gross amount of the proceeds before the reduction of any Brazilian tax) on such sale, exchange or other disposition and the U.S. Holder’s adjusted tax basis in the share or ADS. Subject to the discussion below under “– Passive foreign investment

company”, gain or loss on the disposition of a share or ADS will be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder held the share or ADS for more than one year. Gain or loss recognized by a U.S. Holder generally will be treated as U.S. source gain or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes, as the case may be. An individual U.S. Holder may be entitled to preferential rates of taxation for net long-term capital gains; however, the deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations under the Code.

A U.S. Holder’s initial tax basis of shares or ADSs will be the U.S. dollar value of the purchase price determined on the date of purchase. If the shares or ADSs are treated as traded on an “established securities market,” a cash basis U.S. Holder (or, if it elects, an accrual basis U.S. Holder) will determine the U.S. dollar value of the cost of such shares or ADSs by translating the amount paid at the spot rate of exchange on the settlement date of the purchase. The conversion of U.S. dollars to *Reais* and the immediate use of that currency to purchase shares or ADSs generally will not result in taxable gain or loss for a U.S. Holder.

A U.S. Holder that receives *Reais* upon a sale, exchange or other disposition of our shares or ADSs will realize an amount equal to the U.S. dollar value of the *Reais* on the date of sale, exchange, or other disposition. If the shares or ADSs are treated as traded on an “established securities market,” a cash basis U.S. Holder (or, if it elects, an accrual basis U.S. Holder) will determine the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized by translating the amount received at the spot rate of exchange on the settlement date of the sale. A U.S. Holder will have a tax basis in the *Reais* received equal to that U.S. dollar amount. Any gain or loss realized by a U.S. Holder on a subsequent conversion of *Reais* into U.S. dollars (or other disposition) generally will be U.S. source ordinary income or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

If any gain from the sale or exchange of our shares or ADSs is subject to Brazilian tax, U.S. Holders may not be able to credit such taxes against their U.S. federal income tax liability under the U.S. foreign tax credit limitations of the Code since such gain generally would be U.S. source income, unless such tax can be credited (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income treated as derived from foreign sources. Alternatively, the U.S. Holder may take a deduction for the Brazilian income tax if such holder does not take a credit for any foreign income tax during the taxable year. The rules with respect to foreign tax credits are complex and U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

Passive foreign investment company

In general, certain adverse consequences could apply to a U.S. Holder if we are treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which the U.S. Holder holds shares or ADSs. A non-U.S. corporation will be classified as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes in any taxable year in which, after applying certain look-through rules, either (i) at least 75 percent of its gross income consists of passive income, such as dividends, interest, rents and royalties, or (ii) at least 50 percent of the average quarterly value of its gross assets is attributable to assets that produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income.

Based on a review of our gross income and assets, the manner in which we currently operate our business, the current market price of our shares, and the current interpretation of the PFIC provisions in the Code, we believe that we were not a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the 2012 taxable year. However, the determination as to whether we will be a PFIC for any taxable year is based on the application of complex U.S. federal income tax rules, which are subject to differing interpretations, depends upon the composition of a company’s income and assets and the market value of its assets from time to time, and is not made until after the end of a taxable year. Consequently, there can be no assurance that we will not be considered a PFIC for the current taxable year or any subsequent taxable year.

If we were a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder held shares or ADSs, a U.S. Holder of shares or ADSs may be subject to imputed interest charges and other generally adverse tax consequences with respect to any gain from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of, and certain excess distributions with respect to, the shares or ADSs. Distributions received in a taxable year that are greater than 125 percent of the average annual distributions received during the shorter of (i) the three preceding taxable years or (ii) a U.S. Holder’s holding period for the shares or ADSs will be treated as excess distributions. Under these special tax rules: (i) the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably to each day in the U.S. Holder’s holding period for the shares or ADSs, (ii) the amount allocated

to the taxable year of disposition, and any taxable year prior to the first taxable year in which we are a PFIC, will be treated as ordinary income, and (iii) the amount allocated to each other taxable year that we were a PFIC will be subject to tax at the highest tax rate applicable to ordinary income for each such earlier taxable year and the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed on the resulting tax attributable to each such year.

If we were a PFIC in any taxable year and provided certain requirements were met, a U.S. Holder might be able to make a mark-to-market election that could alleviate certain of the tax consequences described above. A qualified electing fund election would not be available to U.S. Holders because we do not intend to provide the necessary information to allow U.S. Holders to make such an election for any tax year in which we were to be a PFIC.

U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences that would arise if we were treated as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes, any applicable information reporting requirements, and the possibility of making a mark-to-market election in order to alleviate certain of these tax consequences.

Foreign tax credit for Brazilian taxes

The Brazilian IOF/Exchange Tax imposed on a purchase of our shares or ADSs and the IOF/Bonds Tax imposed on a transaction (as discussed above under “Brazilian Tax Consequences”) will not be treated as a creditable foreign tax for U.S. federal income tax purposes. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences of these Brazilian taxes.

Information reporting and backup withholding requirement

Payment 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 to backup withholding unless (1) the holder is a corporation or other tax exempt recipient or (2) in the case of backup withholding, the holder provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that such holder is not subject to backup withholding.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. A holder may be entitled to a refund or credit of any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules against its U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) in a timely manner.

In addition, certain U.S. Holders are required to report to the IRS information relating to an interest in the shares or ADSs, subject to exceptions (including an exception for shares or ADSs held in accounts maintained by certain financial institutions), by attaching a complete IRS Form 8938, Statement of Specified Foreign Financial Assets, with its tax return for each year in which it held an interest in the shares or ADSs. U.S. Holders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of this information reporting requirement on their acquisition, ownership and disposition of the shares or ADSs.

F. Dividends and Paying Agents

Not applicable.

G. Statement by Experts

Not applicable.

H. Documents on Display

Statements contained in this annual report as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to are not necessarily complete, and each of these statements is qualified in all respects by reference to the full text of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit hereto. A copy of the complete annual report including the exhibits and schedules filed herewith may be inspected without