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Since March 30, 2015, CMN Resolution No. 4,373/2014, of September 29, 2014, has been in full effect, providing for the issuance of depositary receipts in foreign markets in respect to shares of Brazilian issuers. The CMN Resolution No. 4,373/2014, among other acts, revoked CMN Resolution No. 1,927/1992, of May 18, 1992, CMN Resolution No. 1,289/1987, of March 20, 1987, and CMN Resolution No. 2,689/2000, of January 26, 2000. Under Brazilian law relating to foreign investment in the Brazilian capital markets, foreign investors registered with the CVM and acting through authorized custodial accounts managed by local agents may buy and sell shares on Brazilian stock exchanges without obtaining separate certificates of registration for each transaction. Foreign investors may register their investment under Law No. 4,131/1962, of September 3, 1962, as amended, or under CMN Resolution No. 4,373, of September 20, 2014.

The Law No. 4,131/1962 is the main legislation concerning investment of direct foreign capital and foreign direct equity in companies based in Brazil. It is applicable to any amount of capital that enters Brazil in the form of foreign currency, goods or services. Foreign investment portfolios are regulated by CMN Resolution No. 4,373/2014, CVM Instruction No. 559/2015, of March 27, 2015, which regulates the approval of ADR programs by the CVM, and CVM Instruction No. 560/2015, of March 27, 2015, which regulates the filing of transactions and disclosure of information by foreign investors, all reflecting the provisions of CMN Resolution No. 4,373/2014.

As of January 1, 2016, foreign investors that intend to be registered with the CVM shall fulfill the requirements under CVM Instruction No. 560/2015. In accordance with CMN Resolution No. 4,373/2014 the definition of a foreign investor includes individuals, legal entities, mutual funds and other collective investment entities, domiciled or headquartered abroad. In order to become a 4,373 Holder, a foreign investor must:

- appoint at least one representative in Brazil, with powers to perform actions relating to its investment;
- appoint an authorized custodian in Brazil for its investments, which must be a financial institution or entity duly authorized by the Central Bank or CVM;
- appoint a tax representative in Brazil;
- through its representative in Brazil, register itself as a foreign investor with the CVM;
- through its representative in Brazil, register its foreign investment with the Central Bank; and
- be registered with the Federal Tax Authority (*Secretaria da Receita Federal*), or the “RFB,” pursuant to RFB Normative Instruction No. 1,548/2015, of February 13, 2015, and RFB Normative Instruction No. 1,863/2018, of December 27, 2018.

E. Taxation

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

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

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

Brazilian Tax Considerations

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

A non-Brazilian holder of ADSs may withdraw them in exchange for common shares in Brazil. Pursuant to Brazilian law, the non-Brazilian holder may invest in the common shares under CMN Resolution 4,373/2014 or as a foreign direct investment under Law No. 4,131/1962.

Taxation of Dividends

As a result of the tax legislation adopted on December 26, 1995, dividends based on profits generated after January 1, 1996, including dividends paid in kind, payable by us in respect of common shares or ADSs, are exempt from withholding income tax. Dividends relating to profits generated prior to January 1, 1996 may be subject to Brazilian withholding income tax at varying rates, depending on the year the profits were generated.

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Beginning in 2008, the Brazilian accounting rules were significantly modified in order to align them with IFRS. After the issuance of such new rules, a transitory tax regime (*regime tributário de transição*), or RTT, was created mainly to ensure neutrality of the new accounting rules in connection with the calculation and payment of corporate taxes on income. Thus, according to the RTT, Brazilian companies had, only for purposes of calculation of their taxable profit, to use the accounting rules and criteria that existed until December 2007.

As a result of the application of the RTT, the accounting profit of a Brazilian company might be significantly higher (or lower) than its taxable profit. Although this specific matter has not been expressly regulated by law, the Brazilian tax authorities issued a normative instruction stating that the amount of dividends paid in excess of the profit of a company determined as per the accounting rules and criteria that existed until December 2007 should be subject to taxation.

On April 14, 2014, Law No. 12,973 was issued to, among other, terminate the Transitory Regime (RTT) and regulate how corporate taxable income should be assessed taking as a starting point the accounting profit calculated according to the new accounting rules introduced as from 2008. Such Law states that dividends related to all accounting profits generated between January 2008 and 31 December 2013 in excess of the established methods and criteria in force in December 31, 2007, are not subject to withholding tax, and does not integrate the calculation of income tax and social contribution. With reference to 2014, the law is not clear, but tax authorities state that dividends paid in excess of the profit of a company determined as per the accounting rules and criteria that existed until December 2007 should be subject to withholding income tax at the rate of 15%, or 25% if the non-Brazilian holder is domiciled in a country or location that does not impose income tax or where the maximum income tax rate is lower than 20% ("Nil or Low Taxation Jurisdiction"). As of 2015, in view of the termination of the RTT, there would be no differences between the accounting and the taxable profit, so that dividends generated since 2015 should be fully paid with no Brazilian withholding tax implications.

Taxation of Gains

Gains realized on disposition of common shares are subject to income tax in Brazil, regardless of whether the sale or the disposition is made by a non-Brazilian holder to a resident or person domiciled in Brazil. This is due to the fact that the common shares can be considered assets located in Brazil for purposes of Law No. 10,833/2003.

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

- are exempt from income tax when assessed on a non-Brazilian holder that (1) has registered its investment in Brazil with the Central Bank under the rules of CMN Resolution No. 4,373/2014, and (2) is not a resident of or domiciled in a Nil or Low Taxation Jurisdiction; or
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% in the case of gains realized by a Non-Brazilian Holder that (1) is not a 4,373 Holder, and (2) is not resident or domiciled in a Low or Nil Tax Jurisdiction; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of up to 25% in the case of gains realized by a Non-Brazilian Holder that is resident or domiciled in a Low or Nil Tax Jurisdiction.

In these cases, a withholding income tax at a rate of 0.005% will be applied and can later be offset with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

Any other gains assessed on the disposition of the common shares that are not carried out on the Brazilian stock exchange are subject to income tax at (i) a flat rate of 15% for a 4,373/2014 holder that is not a resident of or domiciled in a Nil or Low Taxation Jurisdiction; (ii) a flat rate of 25.0% for a non-Brazilian holder that is a resident of or domiciled in a Nil or Low Taxation Jurisdiction; (iii) progressive rates that may vary from 15.0% to 22.5% (15.0% for the part of the gain that does not exceed R\$5.0 million, 17.5% for the part of the gain that exceeds R\$5.0 million but does not exceed R\$10.0 million, 20.0% for the part of the gain that exceeds R\$10.0 million but does not exceed R\$30.0 million and 22.5% for the part of the gain that exceeds R\$30.0 million), for all other non-Brazilian holders. If these gains are related to transactions conducted on the Brazilian non-organized-over-the-counter market with intermediation, withholding income tax of 0.005% shall also be applicable and can be offset with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

In the case of redemption of securities or capital reduction by a Brazilian corporation, such as ourselves, the positive difference between the amount effectively received by the non-Brazilian holder and the corresponding acquisition cost is treated, for tax purposes, as capital gain derived from disposition of common shares not carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange.

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

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There is no assurance that the current preferential treatment for non-Brazilian holders of common shares under CMN Resolution No. 4,373/2014 will continue in the future or that it will not be changed in the future. Reductions in the rate of tax provided for by Brazil's tax treaties do not apply to the tax on gains realized on sales or exchange of common shares.

Sale of ADSs by non-Brazilian holder to another non-Brazilian holder

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

In case the ADSs are considered assets located in Brazil, gains on disposition of ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder to a resident in Brazil or even to a non-Brazilian resident may be subject to income tax in Brazil according to the rules described below for ADSs or the tax rules applicable to common shares, as applicable.

Exchange of ADSs for common shares

Although there is no clear regulatory guidance, the withdrawal of ADSs in exchange for common shares is not subject to Brazilian income tax to the extent that, as described above, ADSs do not fall within the definition of assets located in Brazil for the purposes of Law No. 10,833/2003.

Upon receipt of the underlying common shares in exchange for ADSs, non-Brazilian holders may also elect to register with the Central Bank the U.S. dollar amount of such preferred shares or common shares as a foreign portfolio investment under Resolution No. 4,373/2014 or as a foreign direct investment under Law No. 4,131/1962.

Exchange of common shares for ADSs

With reference to the deposit of common shares in exchange for ADSs, the difference between the acquisition cost of the common shares and the market price of the common shares may be subject to Brazilian income tax at progressive rates that may vary from 15.0% to 22.5% (15.0% for the part of the gain that does not exceed R\$5.0 million, 17.5% for the part of the gain that exceeds R\$5.0 million but does not exceed R\$10.0 million, 20.0% for the part of the gain that exceeds R\$10.0 million but does not exceed R\$30.0 million and 22.5% for the part of the gain that exceeds R\$30.0 million), except for non-Brazilian holders located in a Nil or Low Taxation Jurisdiction, which, in this case, would be subject to income tax at a flat rate of 25.0%. In some circumstances, there may be arguments to claim that this taxation is not applicable in the case of a non-Brazilian holder that is a 4,373 Holder and is not a resident of or domiciled in a Nil or Low Taxation Jurisdiction.

Discussion on Low or Nil Taxation Jurisdictions

On June 24, 2008, Law No. 11,727/2008 was enacted defining the concept of a "privileged tax regime" in connection with transactions subject to transfer pricing and thin capitalization rules. In this conception, privileged tax regimes are more comprehensive than tax havens. A "privileged tax regime" is considered to be a jurisdiction which: (i) does not tax income or taxes income at a maximum rate lower than 20.0%; (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 lower than 20.0%; or (iv) restricts the ownership disclosure of assets and ownership rights or restricts disclosure about economic transactions. On 2014 the Brazilian Revenue Service Ordinance 488 was published, reducing from 20% to 17% the minimum threshold for certain specific cases. The reduced 17% threshold applies only to countries and regimes aligned with international standards of fiscal transparency in accordance with rules to be established by the Brazilian tax authorities.

Notwithstanding the fact that the "privileged tax regime" concept was enacted in connection with Brazilian transfer pricing and thin capitalization rules, there is no assurance that Brazilian tax authorities will not attempt to apply the concept of privileged tax regimes to other types of transactions, such as investments in the Brazilian financial and capital markets. We recommend that prospective investors consult their own tax advisors from time to time to verify any possible tax consequences of Law No. 11,727/2008 and Ordinance 488/2014.

Interest Attributed to Shareholders' Equity

According to Brazilian laws and our bylaws, we may opt to distribute income as interest attributed to shareholders' equity as an alternative to the payment of dividends.

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Distribution of an interest on equity charge attributed to shareholders' equity with respect to common shares or ADSs as an alternative form of payment to shareholders, including non-Brazilian holders of common shares or ADSs, is subject to Brazilian withholding income tax at the rate of 15% or 25%, in case of a Nil or Low Taxation Jurisdiction holder.

Such payments, subject to certain limitations and requirements, are deductible for Brazilian income tax purposes. 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:

- (a) 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 period with respect to which the payment is made; or
- (b) 50% of the sum of retained earnings and earnings reserves as of the date of the beginning of the period with respect to which the payment is made.

Tax on foreign exchange transactions ("IOF/Exchange")

Pursuant to Decree No. 6,306/2007, dated December 14, 2007, as amended, or Decree No. 6,306/2007, the conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currency (e.g., for purposes of paying dividends and interest) and the conversion of foreign currency into Brazilian currency may be subject to the Tax on Foreign Exchange Transactions or IOF/Exchange. Currently, for most exchange transactions, the rate of IOF/Exchange is 0.38%. However, exchange transactions carried out for the inflow of funds in Brazil for investments in the Brazilian financial and capital market made by a foreign investor (including a Non-Resident Holder, as applicable) are subject to IOF/Exchange at a 0%. The IOF/Exchange rate will also be 0% for the outflow of funds from Brazil related to these types of investments, including payments of dividends and interest on shareholders' equity and the repatriation of funds invested in the Brazilian market.

On March 15, 2022, the Decree 10,997/2022 was published, establishing an immediate reduction of the IOF/Exchange for some transactions, such as the reduction of the rate applicable to short-term foreign loan operations to zero. In other cases, however, the rate reduction is gradual over the next years and it is expected that the IOF-Exchange rate will be decreased to zero for all transactions as of 2029.

The Brazilian government may increase the rate of the IOF/Exchange to a maximum of 25.0% of the amount of the foreign exchange transaction at any time, but such an increase would not apply retroactively.

Tax on transactions involving bonds and securities ("IOF/Bonds Tax")

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

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following discussion is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs as of the date hereof. This discussion applies only to a beneficial owner of common shares or ADSs that is a "U.S. holder." As used herein, the term "U.S. holder" means a beneficial owner of a common share or ADS that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust if it (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Department regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds common shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A U.S. holder that is a partner of a partnership holding common shares or ADSs should consult its tax advisors.

Except where noted, this discussion deals only with common shares or ADSs held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, and does not deal with U.S. holders that may be subject to special U.S. federal income tax rules, such as dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings, banks or other financial institutions, tax-exempt organizations, insurance companies, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, persons holding common shares or ADSs as part of a hedging, integrated, conversion or constructive sale transaction or a straddle, persons liable for alternative minimum tax, pass-through entities and investors in a pass-through entity, persons owning 10% or more of our stock, or persons whose "functional currency" is not the U.S. dollar.

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This discussion is based upon the provisions of the Code, and existing and proposed U.S. Treasury Department regulations, administrative pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, and judicial decisions as of the date hereof. Such authorities may be repealed, revoked or modified so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below, possibly with retroactive effect. In addition, this discussion is based, in part, upon representations made by the Depositary to us and assumes that the deposit agreement, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

Except as specifically described below, this discussion assumes that we are not a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Please see the discussion under “Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules” below. Further, this discussion does not address the U.S. federal estate and gift, alternative minimum tax, Medicare tax on net investment income, state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences of acquiring, holding or disposing of common shares or ADSs.

ADSS

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

Taxation of Dividends

The gross amount of distributions paid to a U.S. holder (including Brazilian taxes that are withheld, if any, and any payments of interest on shareholders’ equity, as described above under “Brazilian Tax Considerations”) will be treated as dividend income to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Such income generally will be includable in a U.S. holder’s gross income as ordinary income when actually or constructively received by the U.S. holder, in the case of common shares, or when actually or constructively received by the Depositary, in the case of ADSs. Such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code. To the extent that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the U.S. holder’s adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADSs, causing a reduction in such adjusted tax basis (and thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized on a subsequent disposition of our common shares or ADSs), and thereafter as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange. Because we do not expect to maintain calculations of earnings and profits in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles, U.S. holders should expect that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Distributions of additional common shares or ADSs to U.S. holders that are part of a pro rata distribution to all of our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

The amount of any dividend paid in *reais* will equal the U.S. dollar value of the *reais* received calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the dividend is received by the U.S. holder, in the case of common shares, or by the Depositary, in the case of ADSs, regardless of whether the *reais* are converted into U.S. dollars. If the *reais* received as a dividend are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, the U.S. holder will have a tax basis in the *reais* equal to their U.S. dollar value on the date of receipt. Any gain or loss realized on a subsequent conversion or other disposition of the *reais* will be foreign currency gain or loss that is treated as U.S. source ordinary income or loss. If dividends paid in *reais* are converted into U.S. dollars on the day they are received by the U.S. holder or the Depositary, as the case may be, U.S. holders generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the treatment of any foreign currency gain or loss if any *reais* received by the U.S. holder or the Depositary or its agent are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt.

Certain dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. holders may be eligible for preferential tax rates so long as (1) specified holding period requirements are met, (2) the U.S. holder is not under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (3) the company paying the dividend is a “qualified foreign corporation” and (4) the company is not a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes in the year of distribution or the prior year. We do not believe that we were classified as a PFIC for our prior taxable year, nor do we expect to be classified as a PFIC for the current taxable year. We generally will be treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to our ADSs so long as the ADSs remain listed on the NYSE. Based on existing guidance, however, it is not entirely clear whether dividends received with respect to the common shares (to the extent not represented by ADSs) will be eligible for this treatment, because the common shares are not themselves listed on a U.S. exchange. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors about the application of this preferential tax rate to dividends paid directly on common shares.

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Subject to certain complex limitations and conditions (including a minimum holding period requirement), Brazilian income taxes withheld on dividends, if any, may be treated as foreign income taxes eligible for credit against a U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. Alternatively, if a U.S. holder does not elect to claim a foreign income tax credit for any foreign taxes paid during the taxable year, all foreign income taxes paid may instead be deducted in computing such U.S. holder's taxable income. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on our common shares or ADSs will be treated as income from sources outside the United States. For the purposes of the U.S. foreign tax credit limitations, the dividends paid by us should generally constitute "passive category income" for most U.S. holders. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

Taxation of Capital Gains

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. holder generally will recognize taxable gain or loss on any sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of a common share or ADS in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized for the common share or ADS and the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the common share or ADS, determined in U.S. dollars. Such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss. The capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of sale, exchange or other taxable disposition the U.S. holder has held our common shares or ADSs for more than one year. Capital gains of individuals derived with respect to capital assets held for more than one year are eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Any gain or loss recognized by a U.S. holder will generally be treated as U.S. source gain or loss. A U.S. holder is likely not to be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from Brazilian income tax imposed, if any, on the disposition of a common share or ADS.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

Based upon our current and projected income, assets, activities and business plans, we do not expect the common shares or ADSs to be considered shares of a PFIC for our current fiscal year (although the determination cannot be made until the end of such fiscal year), and we intend to continue our operations in such a manner that we do not expect to be classified as a PFIC in the foreseeable future. However, because the determination of whether the common shares or ADSs constitute shares of a PFIC will be based upon the composition of our income, assets and the nature of our business, as well as the income, assets and business of entities in which we hold at least a 25% interest, from time to time, and because there are uncertainties in the application of the relevant rules, there can be no assurance that the common shares or ADSs will not be considered shares of a PFIC for any fiscal year. If the common shares or ADSs were shares of a PFIC for any fiscal year, U.S. holders (including certain indirect U.S. holders) may be subject to adverse tax consequences, including the possible imposition of an interest charge on gains or "excess distributions" allocable to prior years in the U.S. holder's holding period during which we were determined to be a PFIC. If we are deemed to be a PFIC for a taxable year, dividends on our common shares or ADSs would not be qualified dividend income eligible for preferential rates of U.S. federal income taxation. In addition, a U.S. holder that owns common shares or ADSs during any taxable year that we are treated as a PFIC would generally be required to file IRS form 8621. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the PFIC rules (including any information reporting requirements in connection therewith) to the common shares or ADSs.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to dividends in respect of our common shares or ADSs or the proceeds received on the sale, exchange, or redemption of our common shares or ADSs, in each case to the extent treated as being paid within the United States (and in certain cases, outside of the United States) to a U.S. holder unless a U.S. holder establishes its status as an exempt recipient, and backup withholding may apply to such amounts if the U.S. holder does not establish its status as an exempt recipient or fails to provide a correct taxpayer identification number and certify that such U.S. holder 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 refund or credit against such U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability provided the U.S. holder timely furnishes the required information to the IRS.

In addition, U.S. holders should be aware that additional reporting requirements apply with respect to the holding of certain foreign financial assets, including stock of foreign issuers which is not held in an account maintained by a financial institution, if the aggregate value of all of such assets exceeds US\$50,000. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the information reporting rules to our common shares and ADSs and the application of these additional reporting requirements for foreign financial assets to their particular situation.