

The Impact of the Implementation of Accrual Accounting and Corruption Control on the SDGs Globally

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Abstract: The impact of accrual-based accounting and corruption prevention on the global accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is examined in this study. Using secondary data from 151 nations spanning the years 2020–2024, a quantitative research approach produced a total of 755 observations. The World Bank, the Sustainable Development Report, Transparency International, and the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) were among the international databases from which the data were gathered. Purposive sampling was used to choose the research sample based on information about the implementation of accrual accounting, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), SDG scores, and GDP per capita. The Random Effect Model (REM) was used for panel data regression analysis, with LNGDP included as a control variable and institutional and stakeholder theories acting as the theoretical underpinnings. The results show that accrual-based accounting has a positive and significant impact on achieving the SDGs globally. This result indicates that greater transparency and accountability in public financial reporting contribute to better resource management and more effective development decision-making. In addition, corruption control is found to positively affect SDG achievement, suggesting that sound governance enhances budget efficiency and supports the implementation of sustainable development programs. Additionally, the control variable, LNGDP, shows a positive effect, suggesting that a nation's economic potential contributes to better SDG accomplishment. Overall, this study emphasises that the implementation of accrual-based accounting, more robust anti-corruption policies, and improved institutional quality are crucial components in advancing the realisation of sustainable development globally.

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INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were replaced with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations (UN) in 2015. The SDGs have 17 goals and 169 targets in the economic, social, and environmental domains. Only over 17% of the SDG targets have been met in a sustainable manner, according to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' official Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024. This situation indicates that many challenges remain to achieve the SDGs. Therefore, improvements in governance and management of public resources are urgently needed.

According to research, accrual-based accounting helps the public sector meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by increasing accountability and transparency, which enhances good governance and reduces corruption (Bonollo, 2022; Fahlevi et al., 2022). Strengthening these elements is crucial because achieving the SDGs largely depends on effective governance, particularly in terms of public financial accountability and transparency. Other research suggests that financial

reporting that considers development indicators can give SDG implementation a deeper meaning than merely symbolic (Manes Rossi et al., 2025). This further demonstrates the importance of accrual-based financial reporting for achieving the SDGs (Saud & Furqan, 2024).

Because accrual-based accounting provides clearer and more accurate financial information, it has become a cornerstone of public sector governance reforms in various countries. This system not only enhances fiscal accountability but also improves decision-making quality and resource efficiency (Lapsley & Miller, 2019; Schmidhuber & Hofmann, 2022; Van Schaik, 2023). A report from CIPFA and IFAC states that 30% of 165 jurisdictions have fully implemented accrual accounting, and this figure is projected to increase to 50% by 2025 (CIPFA & IFAC, 2021). However, several countries face significant obstacles, including institutional resistance, technological constraints, and a lack of funding for human resource development.

Furthermore, accrual accounting has proven to be a strategic tool to support more calculative and results-based reporting on the SDGs. Integrating an accrual system into budget preparation and SDG reporting can enhance transparency and public accountability (Cohen et al., 2023). This allows the government to conduct more accurate and objective assessments of state spending. Furthermore, this system enhances governance integrity by clarifying the link between fiscal inputs and development outputs (Schmidhuber & Hofmann, 2022). However, the work environment and career orientation are examples of human resource characteristics that can influence the preparation of accounting staff. This indirectly encourages the use of an accrual accounting system, which results in more accountable reporting (Djuri et al., 2019).

Corruption is a major barrier to sustainable progress. Studies show that countries with strong corruption controls typically have better government performance, which helps achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Conversely, corruption can hinder economic growth and investment and disrupt government management performance in achieving the SDGs (Kaufmann et al., 2010; Sakinah et al., 2024). Other research suggests that corruption undermines political and social structures, resulting in reduced public participation in development (Koeswayo et al., 2024). Another study on maintaining an accrual system in financial management suggests that corruption in the public sector can be reduced by implementing a transparent and auditable system (Nakpodia et al., 2024).

According to institutional theory, actor behaviour is shaped by rules, norms, and oversight systems, which in turn affect governance and development performance. This theory argues that social, economic, and political interactions are shaped by the formal and unwritten rules that shape institutions. Furthermore, a country's performance in achieving development goals is largely determined by these institutions (North, 1990). In order to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 16 on strong and inclusive institutions, good leadership concepts including accountability, transparency, effectiveness, and participation are essential in governance.

Through more accurate, transparent, and trustworthy record-keeping, accrual-based accounting is regarded as an institutional reform intended to enhance accountability and public decision-making (Safari et al., 2024; Saud & Furqan, 2024). Corruption control is crucial for improving institutional performance because, according to institutional theory, corruption demonstrates institutional weaknesses in enforcing formal and informal rules (UNDP, 2014). Several studies have shown that corruption control supported by public participation can improve public sector efficiency (Indriyani et al., 2024; Nafisah & Witono, 2024). Additionally, prior studies have shown that the

presence of a Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) is essential to guaranteeing accountable and transparent fiscal administration (Awalia et al., 2024; Gnaldi & Del Sarto, 2023). Therefore, the use of accrual accounting and corruption control are important ways to improve institutions that directly contribute to achieving the SDGs by improving governance quality and development effectiveness.

According to stakeholder theory, accomplishing organisational objectives and public institutions' capacity to satisfy the demands of many stakeholder groups through transparent and accountable procedures are crucial elements of effective governance. According to this theory, governments should consider all stakeholders in decision-making processes, particularly those related to sustainable development. This includes stakeholders such as the public, regulatory agencies, investors, and the international community (Freeman & McVea, 2002). To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, pressure from stakeholders is pushing organizations to be more accountable and transparent, which includes combating corruption (Roberts, 1992).

By providing better financial information, accrual-based accounting enhances public trust and accountability. Research shows that countries that fully implement accrual accounting and have robust corruption control systems have higher levels of government effectiveness (Saud & Furqan, 2024). Additionally, studies reveal that corruption is a significant barrier to reaching the SDGs since it decreases productivity and maintains inequality in development. However, quality accounting information supports the achievement of the SDGs (Furqan et al., 2023; Transparency International, 2022). Furthermore, research shows that social responsibility programs, governance integrity, and accrual accounting improve the use of public resources and encourage sustainable performance by enhancing the role of authorities (Muliati et al., 2024; World Bank, 2024). Thus, accrual accounting and corruption control cooperate to enhance governance and accomplish the SDGs on a worldwide scale.

Integrating accrual accounting implementation with corruption control is crucial for achieving the SDGs and improving public financial management. Research has shown that accrual accounting can reduce the risk of corruption and increase transparency (Nakpodia et al., 2024). Other research also shows that the combination of an accountable reporting system and strong anti-corruption policies can result in cleaner and more responsive governance (Cohen et al., 2023; Saud & Furqan, 2024). This approach has a direct impact on improving budget efficiency and accelerating the achievement of various global development indicators. There is still a research gap, nevertheless, because the majority of earlier studies examined the use of accrual accounting and corruption control separately, no testing their simultaneous impact on SDG achievement in a single, integrated empirical model. Furthermore, comparative cross-country studies based on global data that simultaneously link fiscal reporting systems, corruption levels, governance quality, and SDG achievement are still relatively limited. This situation highlights the need for an integrative approach that can comprehensively explain the interrelationships between these three aspects.

The integration of two dimensions of corruption control and accrual accounting governance into a cross-country analysis model based on global data represents a novel change in this research. This study differs from previous studies that tend to separate these two variables. This study uses an integrated empirical method to explain the contribution of governance and fiscal reporting systems to the achievement of the SDGs. As a result, this study adds to the body of knowledge on sustainable development, accounting, and governance in the public sector globally. According to institutional theory, governments can adapt to global legitimacy demands and contemporary

governance practices by implementing accrual accounting and corruption control. Conversely, stakeholder theory emphasizes that governments have a responsibility to meet the needs and interests of stakeholders through transparent, accountable, and sustainable development-oriented public resource management. This study extends and strengthens previous literature by using a more integrative and cross-country method.

This study aims to investigate how the worldwide achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is impacted by the use of accrual accounting and corruption control. Using LNGDP as a control variable to account for variations in income levels and economic size between countries, the study specifically investigates whether improvements in SDG scores during the 2020–2024 observation period are significantly influenced by accrual-based financial system reforms and a nation's perceived level of corruption.

Accrual accounting is a method of financial recording that keeps track of income and outlays as they happen. This results in more accurate and thorough financial data and improves accountability and openness in public financial management. According to institutional theory, accrual accounting is a means for institutions to become more legitimate and enhance the level of governance by adjusting to external demands and pressures, especially those related to international norms and practices. Because accrual-based accounting systems are perceived as superior and globally recognized, countries tend to adopt and adapt practices that have become widely used internationally.

Empirically, research shows that good governance and accounting practices in various countries contribute significantly to the success of the SDGs (Ahmed & Anifowose, 2024). Research also reveals a strong relationship between government effectiveness and institutional quality in 163 countries and SDG progress (Morales-Casetti et al., 2024). Furthermore, research shows that accrual accounting improves overall government performance, indicating that a better financial reporting system can improve a country's institutional performance (Saud & Furqan, 2024). As a result, accrual accounting functions as both a financial recording technique and an institutional tool that shows how a nation is responding to international challenges and strengthening its economy. Ultimately, it helps achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) globally.

H1: Adoption of accrual accounting has a beneficial impact on SDG accomplishment.

Corruption control is a systematic effort to prevent and reduce corrupt practices in the management of public resources. Ensuring that government funds and programmes are used effectively, efficiently, and specifically to promote sustainable development is the aim. Stakeholder theory holds that the government is responsible for protecting various stakeholders, especially the public, because corrupt practices directly harm the public and undermine trust in the government. Therefore, to maintain a good relationship between the government and stakeholders, transparency, accountability, and integrity are essential elements that must be met in public financial management.

Empirical findings indicate that controlling corruption is a critical determinant of achieving the SDGs worldwide. Corruption tends to weaken the effectiveness of government spending, increase socioeconomic disparities, and hinder the provision of key public services, particularly in health and social welfare (Ahmed & Anifowose, 2024; Mackey et al., 2018). Other research shows that good governance and low levels of corruption in various countries contribute positively to sustainable development (Ahmed & Anifowose, 2024). Research also highlights the negative impact of corruption on achieving health goals (Mackey et al., 2018). Therefore, controlling corruption serves not only as a rule enforcement effort but also as a mechanism to meet stakeholder interests, increase

public trust, and ensure that state resources are optimally utilized. In the end, this helps advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more broadly.

H2: Control of corruption positively affects the achievement of the SDGs.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a quantitative approach based on secondary data gathered from multiple international databases, such as World Bank, Transparency International (TI), the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), and SDG-related indicators for the years 2020–2024. Although 195 countries are officially recognized worldwide, the initial dataset consisted of 180 countries after data matching and availability screening across the four sources. The final observations were chosen using a purposive sampling technique. Countries that did not meet the sample criteria included those that did not implement accrual accounting, did not have corruption perception index data, or did not have a total SDG score and does not have complete GDP per capita data.

Due to incomplete data, 29 countries did not match the research criteria after the selection process. Due to the lack of data from some countries, the ultimate sample size for the observation year was 151 nations, or around 83,88% of all countries worldwide. This sample included 47 countries in Africa, 37 in Asia, 38 in Europe, 26 in the Americas, and 3 in Oceania. Thus, the results from 151 countries over five years yielded 755 data sets. The analysis presents a more complete view of the SDGs by utilising panel data regression techniques with a random effect model.

Table 1. Number of Samples and Observations

Research Criteria	Sample Type
Total Internationally recognized Countries in the world	195
Countries that have data availability in IFAC, Transparency International, and Sustainable Development Report 2020-2024	180
Countries with incomplete data according to research variable requirements	(29)
Number of final samples of the study	151
Observation Year (2020-2024)	5
Total Observations	755

This study employs panel data, allowing for a more comprehensive analysis as it integrates both temporal and cross-country dimensions within a single analytical framework. Cross-country data are utilized to provide a broader empirical perspective on how accrual accounting adoption and corruption control influence global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This cross-country strategy aligns with research using global data to analyze the relationship between accrual accounting, governance, and sustainable development (Ahmed & Anifowose, 2024; Morales-Casetti et al., 2024; Saud & Furqan, 2024). Additionally, studies indicate that attaining the SDGs depends on the quality of public sector oversight and governance (Awalia et al., 2024).

The empirical model employed in this study is described as follows in order to answer the research questions and evaluate the suggested hypotheses:

$$SDG_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 AKRUAL_{it} + \beta_2 CPI_{it} + \beta_3 LNGDP_{it} + \epsilon_{it} \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

Table 2 describes the specifics of the variable operationalization in Equation (1) and the related data sources:

Table 2. Operational Variables and Data Sources

Name	Operational Variable	Data Source
SDG _{it}	The total Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) achievement score of a nation. An index score between 0 and 100 is used to measure this, with higher values denoting better accomplishment of the nation's SDGs.	Sustainable Development Report
AKRUAL _{it}	The state of public sector financial reporting in a nation using accrual-based accounting. Measured on an ordinal scale of 1-4. With a score of 1 for countries that do not implement a cash basis or accrual basis, a score of 2 for countries that implement a cash basis, a score of 3 for countries that implement an accrual basis but have not yet fully implemented it, and a score of 4 for countries that have fully adopted accrual. Accruals are treated as a continuous variable in the regression, so interpretation of the coefficients requires caution because increases in scores only reflect changes in the level of accrual implementation.	International Federation of Accountants
CPI _{it}	The corruption perception index is measured with a score of 0-100 (The higher the score, the lower the level of corruption). 0 for countries with high corruption rates and 100 for countries with low corruption rates.	Transparency Internasional
LNGDP _{it}	The natural logarithm of a country's gross domestic product (GDP).	World Bank

Data source: Processed by researchers (2026)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics were utilized to characterize the observed dataset and provide a general representation of the research variables, without conducting hypothesis verification. The corresponding descriptive findings are summarized in Table 3:

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics of Variables

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
SDG _{it}	755	67.80252	9.985298	40.2	86.4
AKRUAL _{it}	755	2.668874	1.021791	1	4
CPI _{it}	755	43.27285	18.38203	9	90
LNGDP _{it}	755	25.06199	2.005589	20	31

Number of Observations = 755

Table 2 explains the operationalization of the variables.

Data Source: Secondary data, STATA-17 output (Processed by researcher, 2026)

For each variable included in this study, Table 3 presents descriptive data. The SDG_{it} variable represents the extent to which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been achieved in the countries studied. The average SDG_{it} score is 67,80 with a standard deviation of 9,98, according

to the data, suggesting that the nations under analysis have typically achieved the SDGs at a moderate to reasonably high level. There is variation between countries, with a minimum score of 40,2 and a maximum score of 86,4. This disparity shows that while some nations have achieved greater strides in putting the sustainable development agenda into practice, others continue to struggle with issues including health, education, reducing inequality, and environmental sustainability.

The ACRUAL_{it} variable shows the extent to which public sector financial reporting uses accrual-based accounting. Statistical results show that the range of values is 1 to 4, with an average of 2,66 and a standard deviation of 1,02. This implies that accrual accounting is being used at an intermediate level in most countries. The scale, which ranges from not yet implemented, using a cash basis, partially incorporating accrual, to fully implementing accrual, represents the degree of accrual adoption. An rise in the quality of financial data, fiscal openness, and accountability in public financial management is indicated by a higher degree of accrual accounting application.

The CPI_{it} variable measures the perceived level of public sector corruption in a country; higher values indicate lower levels of corruption. With an average CPI score of 43,27 and a standard deviation of 18,38, the descriptive findings show a minimum score of 9 and a maximum score of 90. The significant variation indicates differences in governance and institutional integrity across countries. Countries with lower CPI scores tend to face challenges in bureaucratic effectiveness, budget transparency, and institutional quality, which can ultimately impact sustainable development outcomes.

Apart from the primary variables, LNGDP_{it} serves as a control variable that uses the natural logarithm of GDP to indicate a nation's economic development. This variable has an average of 25,06 and a standard deviation of 2,01, with a range of 20 to 31. Differences in LNGDP values between countries indicate variations in economic capacity that can affect the government's ability to provide resources to support development programs, such as public services, infrastructure, and policies related to achieving the SDGs.

Variable Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis is used to identify whether relationships among variables are positive or negative, as well as the magnitude of their association, without implying causality. Table 4 below displays the results of the correlation study across the variables:

Table 4. Variable Correlation Analysis

Variable	SDG _{it}	AKRUAL _{it}	CPI _{it}	LNGDP _{it}
SDG _{it}	1.0000***			
AKRUAL _{it}	0.4635***	1.0000		
	0.0000			
CPI _{it}	0.4870***	0.2183***	1.0000	
	0.0000	0.0000		
LNGDP _{it}	0.5349***	0.4342***	0.3345***	1.0000
	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	

Number of Observations = 755

Table 2 explains the operationalization of the variables.

*** = P-Value Significant 1%

Data source: Secondary data, STATA-17 output (Processed, 2026)

The results of the correlation analysis between the study variables are shown in Table 4. The SDG_{it} variable and AKRUAL_{it} are positively and significantly correlated, with a correlation coefficient value of 0,4635 at the 1% significance level. This finding suggests that SDG accomplishment is generally higher in nations that use accrual-based accounting. According to this relationship, the accrual accounting system can help the government create more successful development policies by promoting greater accountability, openness, and quality of public financial management.

Furthermore, SDG_{it} and CPI_{it} exhibit a positive and significant relationship with a correlation coefficient of 0,4870 at the 1% significance level. This study shows that countries with higher CPI scores which indicate lower levels of perceived corruption generally do better on the SDGs. This circumstance suggests that improved public governance can boost resource efficiency, lower the possibility of budget abuse, and aid in the execution of sustainable development. Furthermore, ACCRUAL_{it} and CPI_{it} have a positive and significant relationship, with a value of 0,2183 at the 1% significance level. This implies that accrual-based accounting is associated with strengthening governance and avoiding corruption by enhancing the quality and transparency of public financial data.

With a correlation value of 0,5349 at the 1% significance level, LNGDP as a control variable exhibits a positive and significant link with SDGs in addition to the primary factors. According to this research, nations with stronger economies typically achieve the SDGs more successfully because they are better equipped to supply funding for public investment, essential services, and sustainable development initiatives. However, LNGDP is used as a control variable to account for differences in economic circumstances between countries when analysing the relationship between accrual accounting, corruption control, and SDG success.

Overall, the correlation analysis's results demonstrate how economic capacity, public financial governance quality, and institutional integrity are all interrelated components that support achieving the SDGs. Although the correlation analysis does not prove causality, the positive relationship between the variables suggests that accrual accounting reform, strengthening corruption control, and supporting economic capacity can be important factors in promoting sustainable development globally.

Panel Data Regression Model Selection Testing

The Chow Test, Hausman Test, and Lagrange Multiplier Test (LM test) were used to pick the best estimation model for panel data regression. Table 5 displays the test results:

Tabel 5. Results of Panel Data Regression Model Selection Testing

Test	Compared Models	Probability Value	Decision	Selected Model
Chow Test	CEM vs FEM	0.0000	$p < 0.05$	FEM
Hausman Test	FEM vs REM	0.6424	$p > 0.05$	REM
LM	CEM vs REM	0.0000	$p < 0.05$	REM

Data source: Processed by researchers using STATA-17 (2026)

Based on Table 5, the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) is preferred over the Common Effect Model (CEM), as indicated by the Chow Test results with a probability value of 0.0000 (< 0.05) when comparing both models. In addition, the Hausman Test, which compares the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) and the Random Effect Model (REM), produces a probability value of 0,6424 (> 0.05), implying

no systematic difference between the two models and suggesting that the REM is more appropriate than the FEM. Furthermore, the Lagrange Multiplier (LM) Test comparing the Random Effect Model (REM) and the Common Effect Model (CEM) confirms this result with a probability value of 0.0000 (< 0.05), showing that the REM outperforms the CEM. Accordingly, the Random Effect Model (REM) is selected as the most suitable estimation model for this study based on the outcomes of the three tests.

Hypothesis Testing

As a component of data analysis in quantitative research, hypothesis testing is used to confirm the veracity of a research statement or hypothesis based on gathered empirical data. Hypothesis testing between variables is presented in Table 6 below:

Table 6. Hypothesis Test Results

Variable	Expected Sign	SDG _{it}
_Cons		25.82538 0.000
AKRUAL _{it}	H1 : (+)	3.391*** 0.000
CPI _{it}	H2 : (+)	0.007* 0.060
LNGDP _{it}	(+/-)	1.300*** 0.000
Wald chi ² (3)		95.06
Prob > chi ²		0.0000
R-Squared		0.3471
Mean VIF		1.24

Number of Observations = 755

Estimation using REM with robust standard errors.

Table 2 explains the operationalization of the variables.

***, **, * = P-Value Significant 1%,5%,10%

Data source: Secondary data, STATA-17 output (Processed, 2026)

The results of the hypothesis testing using the Random Effect Model (REM) estimation with robust standard errors in Table 6 demonstrate that the use of accrual accounting has a positive and statistically significant impact on the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Based on the regression results, which show that the accrual accounting variable has an estimated coefficient of 3,391 with a significance level of 1%, H1, which claims that the adoption of accrual accounting has a beneficial impact on the fulfilment of the SDGs, is accepted. According to this research, nations that use accrual-based accounting more frequently typically have higher SDG scores. Theoretically, accrual accounting improves the quality of public financial information by presenting more complete, accurate, and transparent data. This condition supports evidence-based decision-making, increases fiscal accountability, and encourages more effective management of public resources in support of sustainable development.

Additionally, the study's results demonstrate that the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) significantly and favourably affects SDG performance. Since the CPI variable has an estimated coefficient of 0,007 at a 10% significance level, H2, which asserts that corruption control has a

positive impact on SDG attainment, is accepted. These findings indicate that countries with higher CPI scores, which indicate lower levels of corruption, tend to achieve better SDGs. Controlling corruption allows governments to allocate public resources more effectively, reducing budget inefficiencies, and increasing the effectiveness of development programs.

With an estimated coefficient of 1,300 and a 1% significance level, LNGDP, as a control variable representing Gross Domestic Product per capita, likewise shows a positive impact on SDG achievement. These findings suggest that a nation's economic potential contributes to sustainable development. Countries with higher per capita income generally have greater fiscal resources to finance various development programs, such as improving the quality of education, healthcare, infrastructure development, and social protection. Therefore, economic factors are one of the supporting aspects that strengthen a country's ability to achieve SDG targets.

Regarding the model's feasibility, the Wald $\chi^2(3)$ value of 95.06 indicates that the overall regression model is significant. This is reinforced by the Prob value $> \chi^2$ of 0,0000 indicates that each of the model's independent variables simultaneously significantly affects the SDGs. The Overall R-Squared value of 0,3471 indicates that accrual accounting, CPI, and LNGDP variables account for about 34,71% of the variation in SDG attainment. Variables not included in the study model have an impact on the remaining fraction. Additionally, given the Mean VIF value of 1,24 indicates that there are no multicollinearity problems amongst the independent variables, the regression model is considered suitable for inclusion in the study.

Discussion

Accrual accounting has a positive impact on the SDGs

The first hypothesis (H1) is accepted since the results demonstrate that employing accrual accounting has a favourable and statistically significant impact on SDG performance. This effect can be explained by the ability of accrual-based accounting to generate more accurate, transparent, and comprehensive information regarding the government's financial position. Such information strengthens public accountability, improves the efficiency of budget allocation, and supports more evidence-based decision-making processes. In turn, these improvements contribute to broader development outcomes, including poverty reduction, better access to health and education services, and stronger institutional capacity.

Institutional theory is supported by the study's findings. According to institutional theory, these results show how institutions adjust to external demands and pressures, especially those related to perceived global norms and practices, in an attempt to increase their legitimacy and enhance the quality of governance. The adoption of accrual accounting, which aims to improve accountability and transparency in the governance of public financial management, is one significant shift in government policy.

Empirically, this is supported by research suggesting that accrual accounting improves government efficiency worldwide (Saud & Furqan, 2024). Other studies indicate that accrual accounting is able to strengthen public accountability, improve transparency, and lower the risk of corruption (Lapsley & Miller, 2019; Nakpodia et al., 2024). The regression results show an estimated coefficient of 3,391 that is statistically significant at the 1% level, indicating that developments in accrual accounting methods are associated with better SDG performance. Both this study and prior literature consistently demonstrate that accrual-based reporting contributes to better governance

quality and increased government effectiveness. This reflects a common understanding that accrual-oriented financial reporting can strengthen transparency and accountability in public institutions. However, this study differs in that it focuses on how accrual accounting implementation is directly linked to SDG achievement worldwide. This provides a novel contribution in linking public sector accounting reforms to the broader sustainable development agenda.

As a result, accrual-based accounting is considered crucial for establishing a transparent and accountable public financial management system. By generating more precise and comprehensive financial information, governments are able to allocate resources more efficiently while minimizing inefficiencies in public expenditure. Within this institutional setting, such reforms also reflect efforts to respond to global expectations and enhance legitimacy through improved governance practices. As a result, higher levels of accrual accounting adoption tend to contribute more significantly to the advancement of SDG attainment.

Corruption control has a positive impact on the SDGs

The study's findings support the second hypothesis (H2) by demonstrating that corruption control significantly and favourably affects SDG performance. This result suggests that nations with higher CPI values which indicate lower levels of perceived corruption are more likely to achieve the SDGs. In the end, stronger anti-corruption policies reinforce sustainable development results by improving the equitable and efficient delivery of public services, reducing budgetary leakages, and managing public resources more effectively.

This study aligns with stakeholder theory. According to this theory, the government should strengthen openness, integrity, and responsible stewardship of public assets to satisfy the demands of various stakeholder groups, especially the wider community. As corruption diminishes, trust among stakeholders toward government institutions tends to increase, thereby improving the relationship between government and society.

The empirical evidence is consistent with prior studies (Ahmed & Anifowose, 2024), which indicate that corruption adversely affects development efficiency as well as the effectiveness of public administration. It is associated with widening inequality, declining standards of public service delivery, and inefficiencies in resource allocation. Because of this, corruption is widely recognized as a factor that hinders progress toward sustainable development goals (Kaufmann et al., 2010; Sakinah et al., 2024). The estimated value of 0,007 shows statistical significance at the 10% level, indicating that countries with higher Corruption Perception Index (CPI) scores, which reflect lower corruption, tend to achieve better SDG outcomes. Stronger corruption control leads to better development results and more efficient governance structures, according to both this study and previous research. This suggests that the level of corruption control and the calibre of development performance are positively correlated. Nevertheless, this research extends previous studies by emphasizing the relationship between corruption control and global SDG attainment, thereby offering additional empirical insight into the role of corruption governance within the broader sustainable development framework.

Accordingly, corruption control is regarded as an essential factor in strengthening stakeholder trust in government, as the reduction of corrupt practices enhances openness and integrity in public financial management. The public, as the main stakeholder group, directly benefits from improved

and more equitable delivery of public services. Therefore, greater levels of trust in government among stakeholders are typically linked to more effective corruption control.

The estimation results further indicate that LNGDP, used as a control variable, has a positive contribution to SDG attainment alongside the main explanatory factors. This finding suggests that a country's economic capacity can support the success of sustainable development through greater availability of resources to finance public programs, such as education, health, and infrastructure. Nonetheless, LNGDP is included as a control variable to enable a more accurate assessment of how accrual accounting and corruption control affect the SDGs.

Thus, the improvement of governance quality in the public domain is determined not only by enhancements in financial reporting through accrual-based accounting, but also by the strengthening of corruption control mechanisms. Both factors jointly foster greater transparency, responsibility, and effectiveness in managing public resources. Accrual accounting contributes by producing more accurate and comprehensive financial information, while corruption control ensures appropriate and accountable allocation and use of public resources. Additionally, a nation's economic potential, as measured by its GDP per capita, contributes to the accomplishment of the SDGs by increasing the resources available to fund different development initiatives. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be achieved more quickly when economic capacity assistance and sound public governance are combined.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is positively impacted by the use of accrual accounting and the effectiveness of corruption control. In other words, increased use of accrual-based accounting accompanied by lower levels of corruption contributes to improved fiscal responsibility, increased transparency, more effective budget allocation, performance-based policy decision-making, and more optimal use of public funds to support sustainable development. Furthermore, the study indicates that economic capacity, as reflected in Gross Domestic Product per capita (GDP), also contributes to enhancing the achievement of the SDGs. Overall, these results demonstrate that accrual-based financial reporting reform, enhanced anti-corruption measures, and economic capacity support are complementary components in promoting sustainable development, and that institutional integrity and the calibre of public sector governance are significant factors in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs globally.

Despite its contributions, several limitations are present in this study. The reliance on cross-country datasets may not adequately represent the distinctive features of individual countries, and the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) as a measure of corruption is constrained by its perception-based nature. Additionally, the results of this study should be interpreted as an empirical link rather than a complete demonstration of a causal relationship because there may be endogeneity between the independent variables and the SDGs. It is advised that future studies use more objective corruption indicators, extend the analysis period, incorporate institutional variables or other pertinent economic factors, and employ sophisticated analytical techniques such as a dynamic panel data approach or other techniques that can handle potential endogeneity.

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