The North South Divide in International Treaty Negotiation

What divides the North from the South? (OECD v G-77; economies in transition?)
  GDP/capita? (so why is Singapore in the G-77)
  Level of democracy?
  Industrial v. non-industrial (?) economies
  Location??????
  OECD now includes Mexico, Hungary, and Korea.

Why does the divide exist between these “two” groups?
  Have Nots (G-77) want the Haves (OECD) to share the wealth
  Difference in perception (sense of common purpose)/former colonies?
  No empirical basis for these groupings
  Sense of victim hood?
  How does NAM fit?? (Grew out of East-West confrontation during cold war)
  There were costs associated (and maybe specific benefits) with choosing to align
  with East and West; same is not true of North/South divide.

What do countries which are members of G-77 gain by that membership?
  Strength in numbers? Increased pressure for development assistance?
  Argument internally (within country)?

What do OECD countries gain by that membership?
  Lose certain exemptions
  Lose right to ask for development assistance
  Appear more competent; use this for internal stature
  Symbolic status

What connection between earlier proposal for New World Economic Order and current
New Environmental order?
  South feels it is still being victimized by the North
  South feels, therefore, that North should “fix” problems it has created before it
  Asks the South to take any action
  South feels that North still controls its future by imposing unreasonable terms for
  Repayment of debt, limiting access to trading regimes, limiting sharing of
  Technology and intellectual resources
  Requirement to “clean up” is a further attempt to limit growth and development
  We must develop first and clean up later!
  Give us the necessary technology and funds, and we’ll try to do better.

OECD response:
  Requirement to “clean up” is based on real concerns, not a limitation to growth
  And development if done right (i.e. sustainable)
  Long term, south will be a much greater source of environmental damage, must
  Get serious now about reversing trends
You can skip over some of the inefficient steps “we” took, buy our latest Technology and jump ahead! Learn to be self-sufficient!

We’ve given you substantial assistance over the years; you’ve allowed corrupt Governments to waste a lot of this money and failed to develop

Does the underlying North-South dynamic render global environmental treaties ineffective?

Seems like it might. For example, appropriate targets and timetables for Solving the problem are undermined by the need to give the South more Time and lower targets.

How to overcome the North-South divide and enhance the effectiveness of global environmental treaties?

- Encourage individual countries in the South to form strategic alliances with Countries of the North on specific treaties.
- Encourage cross-country alliances at the civil society level!
- Allow cross-treaty trade-offs so that the South comes out ahead! Harmonize A range of regimes
- Offer the South the resources they need to implement the SAME targets and Timetables as the North instead of offering reductions (i.e. compensate the South)
- Make trade opportunities for G-77 countries contingent on implementation of Global environmental agreements
- Offer concessions (delay, lower standard) – unfortunately, this undermines the Achievement of the goals of the MEAs